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POLL RESULTS

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Sunday, May 10, 2009

INSIDE

Wildfire Respite

Thousands of residents were back home Saturday as a blanket of cool, moist air flowing in from the Pacific Ocean tamed a wind-driven wildfire that burned 80 homes along the outskirts of town during the week.

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Warp Speed

"Star Trek" has gone to warp speed at the box office with $31 million in domestic ticket sales after just over a day in theaters.

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Oleai is Parade of Books champion. **PAGE 2**

DPS range master given more time to answer federal lawsuit. **PAGE 5**

Budget faces cuts with less Compact and CIP funding

As Yumul, Pangelinan seek clarification on appropriation

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Fitial administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2010 budget of $162.82 million faces cuts due to a projected $2 million to $3 million reduction in Compact Impact funding, while the Office of Insular Affairs' capital improvement project appropriation for the CNMI will also be lower than in previous years.

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'REMEMBERING THOSE WHO PERISHED DURING THE WAR'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Korean dignitaries and guests pose for a group photo in front of the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi Saturday right after holding a 32nd Annual memorial service for Korean citizens who lost their lives in the Northern Marianas during World War II. Inset, Fitial delivers his speech that honored Koreans killed during the war. HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Over 120 visiting Koreans and members of the local community held a solemn memorial service on Saturday in Marpi to pay tribute to Koreans and others who died during the Battle of Saipan in June and July 1944.

As a Korean priest chanted prayers for the war dead, others bowed their

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Former lawmaker alleges harassment, intimidation during Villagomez trial

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Representative Janet Ulloa Maratita alleged that Caucasian U.S. Court Marshals subjected her to harassment and intimidation during the trial of former Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and co-defendants.

In her declaration, Maratita said the harassment and intimidation came to

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Newest NMI Bar members, from left, assistant attorney general Kathryn Browning Fuller, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke, and attorney Shane A. Intihar of Calvo and Clark law firm, take the attorney's oath in the Supreme Court last Friday. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Hardwicke, two other lawyers are newest NMI Bar members

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court admitted Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke and two other attorneys as the newest members of the local Bar association Friday.

Also admitted to the CNM Bar during the same ceremony was assistant attorney general Kathryn Browning Fuller, who is currently the legal counsel for the Division of Environmental Quality and

See HARDWICKE on Page 4

Local

Oleai is Parade of Books champion

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Oleai Elementary School emerged champion of this year's Parade of Books competition, taking home the $1,000 first place cash prize during Saturday's event at Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Comprised of approximately 40 students, the group impressed jurors and amazed spectators with their effective performance of the popular children's story "The Beauty and the Beast."

Oleai, which has been part of the competition since its start four years ago, was the Parade of Books champion in 2006 and 2007.

Garnering a total of 148 points, Oleai bested San Vicente Elementary School, which received 144 points from the judges. San Vicente was adjudged the second place winner for their equally powerful performance of "The Lion King."

SVES was last year's defending champion and went home Saturday with $750, a group pass for a water park treat at the Pacific Islands Club, and a one-night stay at the hotel for bagging both the competition's best producer's award and the most spirited team award.

Oleai school principal Glenn Muna said the cash prize will be utilized in procuring more books for the school library.

He disclosed that performers, who were from first to sixth grade, diligently rehearsed for two weeks to make sure they will offer a good performance.

"This is the third year we bagged the championship trophy and we're very happy to get the title back. We're truly proud of our students. They deserved to win because they really worked hard," Muna said, adding that selection of the "Beauty and the Beast" was the consensus of the students themselves.

Muna vows the continuous participation of Oleai in the Parade of Books which effectively promotes literacy among kids.

Performing the title role for Oleai in "Beauty and the Beast" was sixth grader Angeline Orsini, who played the character of "Bel."

She told *Saipan Tribune* that the competition always brings fun and hope to all of them.

"It always excites me. This is my second year in the competition…and I can say it's still a great feeling for me!" she said, adding that participation in the annual event also promotes reading—not as a requirement for kids—but for their pleasure as well.

For San Vicente school coordinators Rhonda Camacho and Kathy Pagapular, receiving three major recognitions in the event was truly amazing. The two were lauded for enhancing the kids' creativity as shown in their well-received performance.

SVES started as among the crowd favorites as they wowed the crowd by their colorful and creative costume and set designs complementing the synchronized moves of the 26-member group.

"Although it was stressful, we're very proud of what our students did today. After a month of hard work, it finally paid off," they said, adding that members would be treated to a water park experience before the semester ends.

They said part of the cash prize will be used in buying shirts for the students and donate the other portion to the school operational funds.

The third prize award was bestowed to Garapan Elementary School for their rendition of "Hansel & Gretel" and its students went home with $500 cash prize from Rotarians.

Consolation of $200 cash prize each were awarded to Tanapag Elementary which performed the "Poems for Two Voiced"; Grace Christian Academy for the "Little Mermaid"; and Koblerville Elementary for "The 3 Little Hawaiian Pigs and the Magic Shark."

Ben Babauta, president of the Saipan Rotary Club, meanwhile expressed the group's gratitude to the public and private schools that participated in the event, which he promised to become more exciting every year.

"This is another successful year of Parade of Books and we're very happy with the turnout. This annual event aims to promote and help our schools promote to our kids the importance of reading and encouraging them to have fun in reading," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Babauta extended the group's appreciation to the event's major sponsors that included the Delta-Northwest Airlines, Pacific Islands Club, PSS, and Marianas High School.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Oleai Elementary School students perform a scene from the classic children's fairy tale, "Beauty and the Beast," during the Rotary Club of Saipan's annual Parade of Books Saturday in the Marianas High School gymnasium. Oleai bagged the first prize.

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CNMI has no manual for acquiring private lands for public use

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The CNMI has never had a right-of-way manual that establishes standard guidelines and procedures for acquiring private property for public highways, sometimes displacing families from their own land without uniform and equitable compensation.

On Friday, the House of Representatives adopted a resolution requesting the Department of Public Works to draft and adopt a right-of-way manual to provide uniform and equitable treatment for persons whose property is acquired for public use.

The House adopted eight other resolutions, six of which are thanking private and public agencies for helping Reach Out Pacific bring to Saipan a container load of donated books, book shelves, toys and linens from Hawaii.

House Resolution 16-81, introduced by Rep. Victor B. Hocog, says the right-of-way manual should include at least six set standard guidelines and procedures, including those for the inventory of all public right of ways in the CNMI and surveying and mapping of right of ways.

The revised Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 requires all federal, state and local government agencies and other receiving federal financial assistance for public programs and projects that require the acquisition of real property to comply with the policies and provisions in the Act.

The CNMI receives Federal Highway Administration funding and is responsible for developing such a right of way manual, according to the resolution.

"The right of way manual is important for the Commonwealth government in order to qualify for Federal Highway Administration funds necessary to acquire private property for the development and construction of highway networks in the Commonwealth," H.R. 16-81 says.

Rep. Tina Sablan, during the session, was appalled how the CNMI has never had such a right-of-way manual.

Donations from Hawaii

The House also adopted House Resolutions 16-82, 16-83, 16-83, 16-84, 16-85, 16-86, and 16-87, thanking Reach Out Pacific and other CNMI government and private agencies for bringing to Saipan 19 book shelves, 50 boxes of books, 100 boxes of linens and 60 bags of toys donated by Hawaii schools and hotels.

Reach Out Pacific, headed by Hawaii State Rep. Glenn Wakai, is a non-profit group which takes surplus medical and educational supplies from Hawaii to Pacific islands. The organization has sent more than $300,000 worth of goods to islands, including the CNMI.

The resolutions, all introduced by Rep. Rosemond B. Santos, also thanked Matson Navigation Co. Inc., the CNMI Division of Customs, FAS Moving & Storage, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and Saipan Stevedore Co. Inc.

House members also adopted House Resolution 16-88, which conveys condolences and sympathy to the family of the late Howard I. Macaranas, who was director of the Office on Aging when he passed away on April 16.

See CNMI on Next Page

Social Security says all '240' permits called back in

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Social Security Administration office on Saipan said all applicants with "240" CNMI immigration permits are called back in, and not just those with "240K" permits.

Bridgette M. Camacho, SSA Saipan district manager, said Social Security card applicants previously denied should check with her office if they are holding any of the 24 classes of "240" permits.

"It could be 240B, 240D, or 240K. We entertain holders of any of 24 different classes of 240 permits," she said.

The CNMI Division of Immigration amended the regulations effective Jan. 1 which changed the categories or numbers of entry/work permits which didn't match with Social Security's procedures or categories, forcing it to stop accepting applications from 240 permit holders.

Leslie S. Walker, regional communications director of the Social Security Administration Region 9 office in California, said SSA now has "interim regulations" to allow 240 permit holders to apply for a Social Security card.

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FORMER

From Page 1

a point that she felt very uncomfortable sitting inside the courtroom.

Attorney David J. Lujan, counsel for Villagomez, filed Maratita's declaration in federal court in support of Villagomez's motion for a new trial.

Last April 24, the jurors rendered a guilty verdict to Villagomez, his sister Joaquina Santos, and his brother-in-law James Santos of conspiracy to commit offenses against the U.S., wire fraud, theft concerning a program receiving federal funds, and bribery.

Maratita cited examples the alleged constant pressure by the Marshals to sit up straight and constant inspection of her mouth for gum in the courtroom.

She said the actions of the Marshals gave her a general sense that she is a bad person for sitting where she was sitting, which was behind defendants Villagomez, James A. Santos, and Joaquina V. Santos.

Maratita said that from March 30 to April 24, she observed majority of the hearings in the Villagomez trial in which she noticed that there were three to four Caucasian Marshals and four to five Chamorro security personnel.

At one point, she said, she asked one male Caucasian Marshall whether she could sit in the pew behind the government attorneys, but that her request was immediately denied.

The former congresswoman pointed out that she observed members of the public who had nothing to do with the trial were allowed to sit behind the government attorneys, who were approximately within 10 feet from the jury box and in direct view of the jurors.

She identified those as private attorney and former Attorney General Matthew Gregory, CNMI government attorney Nancy Gottfried, and the extended family of former Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s executive director Anthony C. Guerrero.

Maratita said, she however, observed the family members of government witness Guerrero receiving special treatment from the U.S. Attorney's Office and from the U.S. Marshal's Officers throughout the trial.

She cited that the Guerrero family members were given special sitting directly behind the government attorneys and within close proximity to the jury box and were afforded special treatment at the courthouse entrance as they were allowed to pass defendants' family members in line.

The Guerrero family members, Maratita said, were never subjected to any harassing or intimidating statements or comments by the U.S. Marshal officers.

Maratita also observed that during the trial the pews at the north side of the court were blocked off thereby preventing the defendants' family from sitting in those pews.

She said whenever a federal government employee or his or her family member wished to listen in on the hearing, the Marshals, however, would allow those employees or family members to sit in those pews.

Maratita said Marshals also personally escorted jury members from Kristo Rai Church parking lot through the security check-point and that the only time defendants and their family members were allowed to enter the building were after all the jurors entered the courtroom.

"This treatment of defendants and their family gave jurors the false impression that the defendants and their families were dangerous people," she said.

Maratita said the defense family members and supporters were clearly segregated on one side of the courtroom located behind the columns while the government and its witnesses and their families were given access to the pews nearest to the jury box.

Maratita said that last April 28 she observed the trial of Luis Pelisamen and found a very different atmosphere.

"First of all, the off-island Marshals were no longer present. Secondly, the Marshals did not go out of their way to harass the defendant's family and supports. Finally, government witness family members were not given special treatment in clear view of the jurors," she added.

Comparing the two trials, Maratita said, she believes that the Marshals created an atmosphere of fear amongst the Villagomez family and supporters such that jurors were led to believe that the defendants were in fact criminals deserving of punishment.

"I firmly believe that the Villagomez courtroom was the most segregated courtroom I have ever seen, with Villagomez family members whom are primarily Chamorro on one side and, with the exception of Guerrero family members, federal employees and their friends whom are primarily Caucasian on the other side," Maratita said.

REMEMBERING

From Page 1

heads to also pray. Visiting Korean Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps members also offered their salute.

The event held at the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi marked the 32nd annual memorial service for Korean citizens who lost their lives in the Northern Marianas during World War II.

Korea was made a Japanese colony in 1910. At least 1,000 Koreans were brought to Saipan before the war as laborers.

Saipan was a major battleground between Japanese and American forces during World War II.

Korean Consul General to the CNMI Chong Il Lee, in his remarks, thanked all those who took part in the memorial ceremony "for the Korean people who had been forcibly dragged into World War II by Japanese imperialism and had been killed in the Pacific area."

He also expressed hope that all the people in the CNMI can endure all the difficulties and succeed in the face of the global economic recession and the many changes brought by the federalization of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28.

"I also wish everybody here, as a Korean, to make an honorable history for the motherland Korea and CNMI, something like holding the successful Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 and the World Cup football games in Seoul in 2002," he added.

Fitial, for his part, said the memorial service "honors the sacrifices made by those who lived here decades ago, before the war, and who lost their lives during the Battle of Saipan in the summer of 1944—65 years ago."

"For the past 32 years, you have never forgotten those who were lost, and here we are again paying proper tribute and respects to the Saipan Korean community of that era," the governor said.

He also recognized the new Korean community which he describes as a "vibrant community with much to contribute to the CNMI."

But the governor said the strength of the Korean community in the CNMI "lies in part to its past, in honoring and respecting those who made great sacrifices."

"Let us join together today to contemplate a part of our shared history, here in this sacred place, and pray for those who lost their lives during World War II. And as we reflect upon the lessons of the past, let us always recognize the importance of peace and goodwill. Thank you for returning to Saipan this year for this important annual peaceful ceremony in Marpi," he said.

Chon Hee Lee, secretary of the Korean Association of Saipan, said 56 visitors from the University of Taegu in South Korea came to Saipan for the 32nd annual memorial service, along with three officials from the Memorial Service Association for the Deceased Compatriots Overseas.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela, in a speech read during the ceremony by his chief of administration Robert A. Guerrero, said "through the many years since the end of the battle, our community, both Korean and indigenous alike, have joined together to rebuild our island and our families."

"It is this sense of unity from every ethnic background that has brought our community together and made our island what it is today," he said.

After the playing of the Korean, U.S., and CNMI national anthems, the prayers, the offerings, the wreath-laying, and the delivery of speeches by dignitaries including Fitial, Chong Il Lee, Korean Association of Saipan president Gyung Gu Rhee, and visiting officials from the University of Taegu in Korea, came the lighting of incense.

Visitors to the Korean War Memorial Monument in Marpi would also read these words etched on one of the rocks by the Taegu Council/Girl Scouts of Korea: "In Saipan far away…The soul is sad and all alone. The younger generation of the nation wishes to pay respect and sympathy by using this rock representing a grave stone from the fatherland."

HARDWICKE

From Page 1

other resource agencies such as the Coastal Resources Management Office and the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Attorney Shane A. Intihar, a member of the Guam-based Calvo and Clark law firm, likewise took his attorney's oath to become a new member of the CNMI Bar.

Hardwicke, Fuller, and Intihar recently passed the CNMI Bar Examination, a comprehensive two-day exam testing the applicant's analytical abilities and knowledge of local laws. In addition, the applicants satisfied a variety of character and fitness requirements.

"I feel good and satisfied," Hardwicke told *Saipan Tribune* after the ceremony.

Hardwicke, who finished law at the Williamette University College of Law, said he wanted to continue his job being the chief public defender.

Hardwicke decided to take the local Bar examination as his four-year waiver to practice law in the CNMI will expire in September 2009.

Fuller has been working with the Office of the Attorney General for four years now. She said the CNMI offers a lot of opportunity for lawyers like her who loves environmental work.

"It's a lovely place," said Fuller, who also used to work in Palau and Indonesia before moving to the Commonwealth. She completed law at the Northwestern University School of Law.

Intihar took law at the Washington University School of Law. He has been a member of the Calvo and Clark law firm in Guam since October 2007.

Intihar said he took CNMI Bar Examination because it is a standard practice of their law firm and even their San Francisco branch to have their members admitted in the CNMI Bar.

"I'm so excited to practice law in the CNMI," said Intihar whose expertise is civil cases that deal mostly with commercial transactions.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, who administered the oath of attorney, welcomed the new admittees to the CNMI Bar.

"I cannot belittle the nature of the exam you just took. It is a difficult one and as lawyers, or human beings, we promise ourselves to do it just once and no more," Demapan said.

The chief justice said as the CNMI is facing the most difficult challenges in the Commonwealth history everybody has to all pitch in so that everyone knows how important this third branch (Judiciary) is.

"Without a functioning judicial branch, I do not need to impress upon you of the adverse effects it will have on the practice of law. Legal work within the law offices will grind to a stop," he noted.

Demapan underscored the importance for lawyers to continue to spread the word of the need to maintain a functioning court system.

Aside from Demapan, present during the ceremony were Victoria Dalit who is the designated chief justice from the Man 'Amko Center, associate justices John Manglona and Alexandro Castro, Superior Court associate judge Perry B. Inos, and NMI Bar Association president Maya B. Kara.

BUDGET

From Page 1

From $11.3 million in FY 2009, OIA's CIP funding for the CNMI is expected to reach only close to $11 million, OIA federal CIP coordinator Keith Aughenbaugh told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

"It's a little bit less than the previous year. But as of now, the figure is preliminary," Aughenbaugh said.

On Saturday, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the administration expected Compact Impact funding to be "significantly reduced" and this will lower budget projections for FY 2010.

He said Finance will work with the Legislature to reflect those changes in the budget.

The April 1 budget submission by the Department of Finance shows $5,171,916 in Compact Impact funding projection.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul, chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Sen. Maria "Frica" Pangelinan, chair of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, jointly asked the Fitial administration on Thursday to clarify the projected Compact Impact funding in the FY 2010 budget.

Yumul and Pangelinan's inquiry was in light of a recent statement made by acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Nikolau Pula that the CNMI stands to lose $2 million to $3 million in Compact Impact funding due to lesser migration of Freely Associated States citizens to the islands.

"Please bring our offices up to date on this issue by either confirming that the $5,171,916 projected for FY 2010 is in fact accurate, or by amending the projected Compact Impact funding amount in the governor's budget proposal," Yumul and Pangelinan said in a May 7 letter to Esther S. Fleming, acting special assistant for Management and Budget, and acting Finance secretary Robert Schrack.

The U.S. Census Bureau reported a 41 percent decline in the FAS citizen population in the CNMI, now at only 2,001.

The FAS includes Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia (Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei).

Under a Compact between the United States and FAS, citizens of FAS are free to travel, work and study in the U.S. and its territories without U.S. visas.

Guam, Hawaii, American Samoa, and the CNMI share $30 million in Compact Impact funding that the Interior Department releases every year. The federal funding goes mainly to health, social service, public safety, and education agencies for accommodating or providing services to FAS citizens.

Budget work continues

Yumul, in a telephone interview, said he and Pangelinan continue to work on the FY 2010 budget. He said among the biggest concern is the Compact Impact funding.

The governor's budget proposal estimates gross budgetary resources to reach $162.82 million in FY 2010, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009 to Sept. 30, 2010.

Some $4.65 million of this amount is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to the Marianas Public Land Trust. In addition, $7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

Pangelinan earlier said by the time the budget proposal reached the Legislature on April 1, many things have changed. She said by law, the governor makes the budget projections and is the only person who can change the numbers. "We can only question the projection, we cannot change it," she said.

CNMI

From Page 3

H.R. 16-88, introduced by Rep. Edwin P. Aldan, also paid tribute to Macaranas for providing services to the people of the CNMI.

The House also adopted House Resolution 16-89, introduced by Rep. Ralph Torres, commending Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band for its outstanding performance at the 2009 Tumon Bay Music Festival on Guam in March.

DPS range master given more time to answer federal lawsuit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has granted Department of Public Safety range master Ambrosio T. Ogumoro more time to respond to the U.S. government's lawsuit against him for alleged fraudulent transfer of his piece of land to his daughter.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered that Ogumoro and his daughter Leiana have until May 22, 2009 to file their answers to the U.S. government's complaint.

Munson issued the order after the U.S. government and the Ogumoros, through their respective lawyers, filed a stipulation or agreement to extend time to plead or otherwise respond.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz on behalf of the U.S. government, and attorney Douglas F. Cushnie, counsel for the Ogumoros, filed the stipulation to the court last Wednesday.

Munson

The U.S. government filed the lawsuit last February. The complaint alleged that Ambrosio Ogumoro transferred his land to his daughter despite his failure to pay $3.7 million in damages over a fishing boat oil spill.

Cruz asked the court to void the fraudulent conveyance of Ogumoro's interest in the subject lot located in Capital Hill.

Cruz requested the court to issue an order requiring Ogumoro to immediately satisfy his civil monetary obligations.

The U.S. government asked the court to enjoin Ogumoro's daughter, Leiana, from disposing or diminishing the subject land.

Cruz also moved the court to seize the property and put into public auction so the proceeds will be paid toward Ogumoro's debt to the U.S.

According to the complaint, in June 2004, Ogumoro was involved in the discharge of oil into the navigable waters and adjoining shorelines of the CNMI and the U.S.

The defendant allegedly failed to take actions as required by officials with respect to oil spill removal activities.

"As a result, the U.S. incurred costs and damages to remove the oil spill," Cruz stated in the complaint.

In May 2006, the U.S. government, on behalf of the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, filed a lawsuit against Ogumoro and two others to recover the oil spill clean-up costs.

Ogumoro and co-defendants failed to defend the case. As a result, the court issued a default judgment in December 2006, finding the defendants jointly liable to pay $3.4 million plus interest.

Cruz said the default judgment created a lien in favor of the U.S. government on all of Ogumoro's properties.

Cruz said during a deposition in August 2008, Ogumoro admitted that he transferred his Capital Hill lot to his daughter, Leiana, as a gift.

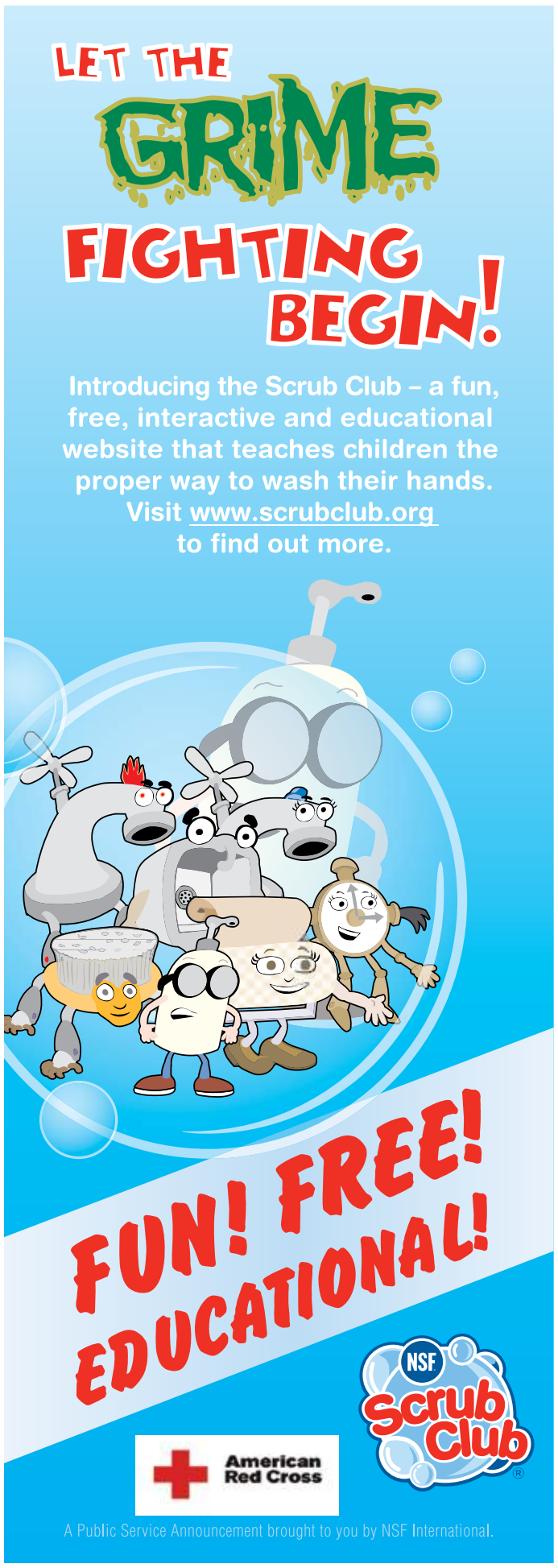
Cruz said that last January the U.S. government sent a demand letter to Ogumoro, with a copy to Leiana, requesting payment of the civil judgment in full or acceptable alternative payment arrangements.

The government lawyer said Ogumoro declared he is not able to pay the civil judgment in full.

"To date, the parties have been unable to agree on alternative payment arrangements," Cruz said.

Cruz said the current balance of Ogumoro's civil debt is $3,782,554.65.

The fishing boat, F/V *Mwaali Saat*, reportedly owned by Ogumoro and his brother, sank within the Tanapag Harbor in June 2004.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CPA hires consultant; proposes revision of personnel regs

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
msoneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has hired a new consultant tasked to complete a cost allocation plan for the agency.

Ports authority executive director Efrain F. Camacho reported to the board that Charles W. Hester, a certified public accountant, was hired last March.

Saipan Tribune learned that Hester agreed to provide professional services to the agency to establish a cost allocation plan for Federal Administration Aviation grants, guidelines, forms, record keeping, and all requirements pursuant to FAA rules and regulations.

The professional contract agreement was set in the amount of $23,000 until the completion of the scope of work.

Hester has attended the board's recent meeting and had provided updates on the project.

Camacho said the cost allocation plan is vital in the agency's effort to completely addressed concerns of the federal agency, based on Office of Inspector General report that identified some unaccounted administrative costs.

According to FAA manager for airport division for western pacific, Mark McClardy, the cost allocation plan would be a "vital factor" in the complete removal of CPA from "risk status."

The official also formally notified the ports management on its removal from "high-risk status" to now moderate.

"I am pretty sure it will soon be removed to the risk status until it goes back to business as usual [because of the cost allocation plan]," McClardy said.

Camacho, on the same meeting, had endorsed for board action management's proposal to revise the personnel rules and regulation of the agency.

He said changes are necessary to be made to "reflect" the current condition of the ports authority.

Camacho described the regulation as "outdated" and "very complicated."

Saipan Tribune learned that the regulation mandates the CPA management to provide merit and salary increase to employees who have been in the service for 30 years.

"We need to change that… because I believed that whatever adjustment is made should be based on performance evaluation. Besides, the availability or status of the funds must be considered," he told the board.

Camacho said the management wants to simplify, especially the hourly wage scale, mandated in the present rules and regulation.

"The rules and regulations need to be based on performance as a means for staff advancement in the organization," Camacho added.

The proposal is now under the board's review and expected to be acted upon in its next meeting.

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Tinian Chamber to host workshop on labor requirements and federalization impact

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian Chamber of Commerce will be hosting tomorrow a workshop to help employers understand new requirements for processing nonresident worker contracts, the federal minimum wage increase this month, and the impact of federalization on the CNMI labor program, among other things.

Phillip Mendiola-Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, urges employers to avail of the workshop, to be conducted by visiting representatives from the CNMI Department of Labor office on Saipan.

"Know what your requirements are, and how federalization will affect your business," said Mendiola-Long, referring to the Nov. 28 start of the transition to federal immigration system.

The business group said the 180-day delay in the start of federalization implementation to Nov. 28 instead of June 1 provides the U.S. Department of Homeland Security "sufficient time to address the security issues that would exclude China from the visa waiver program."

Tinian, which is the only island with an operating casino and at least two more up for construction, is dependent on Chinese tourists, who will not be exempted from the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program by Nov. 28.

The May 12 workshop, which will be held at the Fleming Restaurant from 11am to 1pm, also covers maximizing the CNMI labor permit two years into the federal program, and the new processing fees, bonding and medical insurance requirements.

The workshop, which charges a $10 fee for non-members, will be held together with the Tinian Chamber of Commerce's monthly general membership meeting.

Included on the agenda are the president's report on the U.S. Small Business Administration's training workshop in April, and the board of directors' meeting with the Joint Guam Program Office.

The 37-member Tinian Chamber of Commerce was revived in February.

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE CNMI

NOTICE OF DESTRUCTION OF VESSELS

The public is hereby notified of the presence of two abandoned vessels, SAN PEDRO and MEANA III, at the Smiling Cove Marina, managed by the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife ("DFW"). The last known owners of record for the vessels are Quirino Adlaon and Masashi Uchida, respectively. Over $9,317.00 is owed in wharfage fees to the Smiling Cove Marina for the vessel SAN PEDRO and over $3,411.10 is owed for MEANA III.

The owner of either of these vessels must contact Roque Santos, Manager of the Smiling Cove Marina, to assert his ownership interest within thirty (30) days of DFW will remove/destroy/dispose of these vessels pursuant to law.

Members of the public may contact Mr. Santos if they have an interest taking one or both of these vessels in an "as is" condition after the 30-day notification period has run, if no legal owner has been identified.

Korea cultural exchange draws 13 students

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 13 junior and senior students from various schools on Saipan left Saturday for the 17th CNMI Student's Cultural Exchange Program that includes visits to an automaker plant, a military facility, schools, an amusement park, and the Gyeongbokgung Palace.

This annual event is in collaboration between the Junior Chamber Incorporated and the Municipality of Saipan.

However, the Office of he Mayor said it could not release the names of the students as of this time.

The students, who would be accompanied by two chaperones from the Saipan Mayor's Office and staff from the Saipan JC, ranges from 13 to 17 years old.

Invitations were sent to the different schools and as a result 13 have applied and qualified.

The five-day trip will be all-expense paid except for $300 entrance fee to South Korea to be shouldered personally by the student.

Based on the itinerary, the students will tour Busan in the first day on May 11.

In the afternoon, the group will visit the Ulsan Hyundai Motor factory and at Cheongju.

The students are scheduled to interact with some of the officers at the Air Force Academy of South Korea on Tuesday, May 12.

They will also visit Pocheon JC and the Korea Learning Center where they will experience the local culture and manners there on the same day.

On Wednesday, May 13, the group will continue attending first hand lessons with Korean culture with the local students in Pocheon City, where they will have a half day tour.

From Pocheon they will go back to Seoul on Thursday, May 14, and will attend a lunch meeting at the Lotte World, an amusement park and one of the biggest attractions in the nation's capital city.

From Seoul, the group will visit YangPyeong City for a dinner with the local JC group.

Before flying back home on Friday, May 15, the students will be visiting the Gyeongbokgung Palace.

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Munson cancels hearing to determine defendant's competency to stand trial

The federal court on Friday canceled the hearing set for today, Monday, which is intended to determine whether one of the persons accused as behind the passing of fake bills to some stores on Saipan is competent or not to stand trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said the hearing involving Lucas Manglona is taken off calendar until further order of the court.

Munson did not indicate the reason in canceling the hearing in his one-page order.

Munson recently issued an order that set the hearing for today to determine whether Manglona is at that time suffering from a mental disease or defect rendering him mentally incompetent to the extent that he is unable to understand the nature and consequences of the proceedings against him.

Dr. Ron Meister, a psychiatrist, concluded in a written report of his evaluation that Manglona presently lacks the capacity to assist his counsel in the preparation of his defense due to his not having been provided previously prescribed medication during the period immediately preceding his evaluation.

The court, however, determined that it is likely that Manglona's competency will be restored within the next few days.

The court, therefore, then further ordered that the defendant be re-evaluated by Dr. Meister on May 4, 2009 to determine whether he is competent to stand trial.

Dr. Meister conducted the examination on Manglona pursuant to the proceedings in the federal court where the defendant has a pending case related to fake money.

Manglona is also being charged with one count of counterfeiting in the local court. The case is set for jury trial on June 8, 2009.

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman has ordered the prosecution and the defense to be ready to proceed with the evidentiary hearing on May 12 at 9am.

The sole purpose of the hearing is to determine Manglona's competency to stand trial or to be proceeded against.

Last March, the federal court granted the request of Manglona to retain the services of a psychologist to examine as to his ability to stand trial.

In a motion, attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Manglona in the federal court case, noted that the Office of Probation's pretrial services report indicates that Manglona has been receiving prescriptions for psychotropic drugs, including Halodol and Halopirodol.

Torres said the substance of the report strongly suggests that his client suffers from paranoid schizophrenia and, at the very least, warrants a competency determination by a forensic psychiatrist.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service with the assistance of local police have busted Manglona, his brother Nestor Camacho Taitano, and Kisha Lyn Masga King.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. Benedetto stated in the indictment that the three defendants used fake money on Jan. 12, 2009, to defraud at least four establishments—Koblerville Shell gas station, Tapo Fashion in Chalan Piao, Fashion Avenue in Chalan Kanoa, and Nang Ocha Store in San Vicente.

Taitano and King had already entered a guilty plea in federal court. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Singles magazine here on Saipan

Staff of Korea's *Singles* magazine are currently on Saipan this week for a feature in its Summer Special Travel Guide supplement next month.

The media FAM tour will be on island from May 9 to 12 to gather photos and travel information on the Northern Marianas related to shopping, restaurants, nightlife, water sports, hotels, and resorts.

"*Singles* magazine will be covering various attractions to give their 60,000 readers a firsthand look at what makes Saipan and the Northern Marianas a great place to visit," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio.

While on island, *Singles* will visit Hyatt Regency Saipan, Marians Resort & Spa, Aqua Resort Club, and Fiesta Resort and Spa. The nightlife spotlight will feature Taste of the Marianas, the Fiesta Resort & Spa cultural dinner show, several bars in Garapan and Club V. They will enjoy firsthand experience with parasailing and snorkeling at Managaha Island, a tour of historic and scenic sites, plus meals at various restaurants. Shopping at DFS Galleria, La Moda Isla, and small boutique shops in Garapan will also be featured.

Singles is a monthly fashion magazine targeting single men and women ages 25-34. The publication includes articles on health, careers, financial investment, fashion and beauty. The Summer Special Travel Guide will be a separate-volume supplement of the June issue featuring destination travel information. The NMI is slated to receive 10 pages of coverage out of 50 pages total at an estimate ad exposure value of $45,000.

The FAM tour is being supported by Tasi Tours, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort and Spa, Korean Tour Association of Saipan, Monte Vista restaurant, and Club V. ***(PR)***

Body+ magazine to feature 2009 Tagaman Triathlon

After substantial coverage of the January 2009 Winter Festival of Runs on Saipan, Japan's *Body*+ magazine is preparing another full length feature on the Northern Mariana Islands centered on last month's 2009 Saipan Sportsfest.

Body+ is anticipated to release a four to six page feature in this month's issue highlighting the Tagaman Triathlon held in April 2009. In addition to a photographer, writer and editor, the magazine had three talent stars join Tagaman as a team and share their experience. The magazine is published monthly by *Jitsugyou no Nihonsha* and reaches 70,000 readers, largely men and women in their 20s and 30s.

"We are very pleased that *Body*+ magazine returned so quickly to prepare another feature on sports attractions in the Northern Marianas," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We have a large number of sports events to offer visiting athletes year round, and we're happy the word is getting out."

Other attractions on Saipan were covered during the magazine's familiarization tour, including the annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Managaha, Saipan Botanical Garden, Joeten Shopping Center, and a sunset dinner cruise. The journalists and celebrity runners stayed at Pacific Islands Club Saipan, where they also took in the spa and other amenities.

The anticipated publicity value of the ad is up to $76,000. Support for the magazine coverage was provided by MVA, Saipan Botanical Garden, Tasi Tours & Transportation, and PIC. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 234-7144 or 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE
May 11, 2009

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 2009 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR, WAKIN'S BUILDING, CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
  1. Roll Call
  2. Adoption of Agenda
  3. Adoption of Minutes
    a. CDA Minutes April 16, 2009
    b. DCD Minutes April 16, 2009
II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
III. REPORTS
  1. Financial Report-CDA
  2. Legal Counsel's Report
IV. DIVISIONS/COMMITTEES
  1. Development Corporation Division (DCD)
  2. DBD/Public Finance Committee
  3. Administrative Matters/Personnel & Budget
  4. QC Program/Economic Development Activities
    a. PTI Services, Inc. – QC Application
V. OLD BUSINESS
VI. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
VII. OTHER MATTERS
VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session)

/s/ PEDRO I. ITIBUS
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

INVITATION FOR BID

Building Maintenance of NMHC's Housing Units in Rota
IFB NO.: NMHC - IFB09-002

This ad is paid by NMHC with HUD Funds.

Governor Benigno R. Fitial through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested, licensed companies in the Commonwealth to provide building maintenance services for its housing units in As Liyo, Island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick up Bid Specifications at NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan or Songsong Village, Rota, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Tuesday, May 12, 2009, at 10:30 a.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in Songsong Village, Rota. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour the housing subdivisions and inspect several housing units owned by NMHC that will be covered under the proposed contract. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder.

Sealed Bids must be marked **NMHC IFB09-002.** For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009 and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com For bidders located outside of the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U. S. Postal Service or the official government postal service no later than May 22, 2009 AND must be received by Procurement and Supply no later than June 3, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, June 4, 2008. However, if no Notices of Intent to Bid are received from bidders outside of the CNMI, the bids will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, May 22, 2009.

Bidders are advised that this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act and the labor standard provisions for wage rate determination of the Commonwealth. All labor on the project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage for the CNMI or the U. S. Department of Labor General Decision CM20080001, whichever is higher.

This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires the successful bidder to the "maximum extent feasible", take affirmative steps to provide training, contracting and employment opportunities and help ensure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents in Rota.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Laws 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this project.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsible bid will be awarded a contract with NMHC.

NMHC hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contacts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small, minority businesses and women's business enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

Should you require additional information, please direct inquiries to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, via email to ecfejeran@nmhc.gov.mp or facsimile at (670) 234-9021, no later than end of business day, 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2009, so that questions and answers may be shared with all bidders.

/s/ **MARCIE M. TOMOKANE**
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, Procurement & Supply

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-BOP-097

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 03, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) LAPTOP COMPUTERS FOR THE BOARD OF PAROLE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **JOSEPH T. GUERRERO**
CHIEF OF PAROLE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-CRM-092

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JUNE 03, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT - TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) - (D)

/s/ **JOHN B. JOYNER, PH.D**
DIRECTOR OF CRM

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB09-EDP-089 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 22, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

(A) "PURCHASE OF 77-DESKTOP PCs, 9-LASEJET PRINTERS, 2-ALL IN ONE NETWORK PRINTERS, 2-NETWORK MULTI SERVICE ROUTER, 6-T1 CSU/DSU MODULES V2, 6-320GB EXTERNAL HARDDRIVES, 2-CONSOLE EXTENDERS, 3 NETWORK SWITCHES, 1-CORE SWITCH, 16- 26" WIDESCREEN LCD MONITORS, 7-NOTEBOOK PCs
(B) DOCUMENT IMAGING SOLUTION 1-SERVER, 3 DOCUMENT IMAGING SCANNERS FOR THE DOF-ELECTRONIC DATA PROCESSING"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE ITB IF PREFERECED IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **ELOY S. INOS**
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

MAY 11, 1999

Power plant up for grabs again

A new bid package prepared by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation for the Saipan power project goes out today to nine companies elevated into the second round of independent reevaluation, according to Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez. Burns & McDonnell, the private engineering firm hired by the government-owned utility firm for the procedure, is expected to review the "best and final offers" from these companies by the end of this month or early June. "We are still on schedule as long as we're within (the) June (time frame)," the utility chief said in an interview yesterday.

Gov't prodded to put in place productivity scheme

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Kerry M. Deets yesterday recommended that the CNMI government establish a way to measure productivity in various positions which would help determine if there are non-essential jobs in the administration that must be eliminated. According to Deets, the productivity scheme would also help find out the areas in government that needs improvement, whether some people are properly compensated and the right number of staff that must be maintained. In short, such task would assist Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in determining the right size of the government amid calls to downsize the bloated bureaucracy. At least 75 percent of the $206 million budget for this fiscal year goes to salaries and benefits of over 4,000 government employees.

MAY 11, 2000

Bishop condemns abortion

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho yesterday condemned attempt by some quarters to legalize abortion in the Northern Marianas as circumstances surrounding the controversial issue have slowly come to light following a closed-door meeting by the House of Representatives. He expressed sadness over reports that abortions are being performed on the island and that some individuals have come out to suggest that such practices are legal here. In a pastoral letter issued in time for the Mother's Day celebration on Sunday, the Bishop of Chalan Kanoa reiterated the Catholic's strong opposition against abortion which he said is a grave offense tantamount to excommunication from the church.

Water Safety Task Force proposed

In light of mounting concerns on the quality of potable water on the island, a task force is being proposed by the House of Representatives to monitor the safety of groundwater resources being supplied to residential homes and commercial establishments. To be called the Water Safety Task Force. it will comprise one representative each from the Division of Environmental Quality, Department of Public Health, the hotel association, Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association. The proposal, contained in the bill offered by House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, comes amid alarming reports on the quality of water wells and other groundwater resources here, particularly on Saipan.

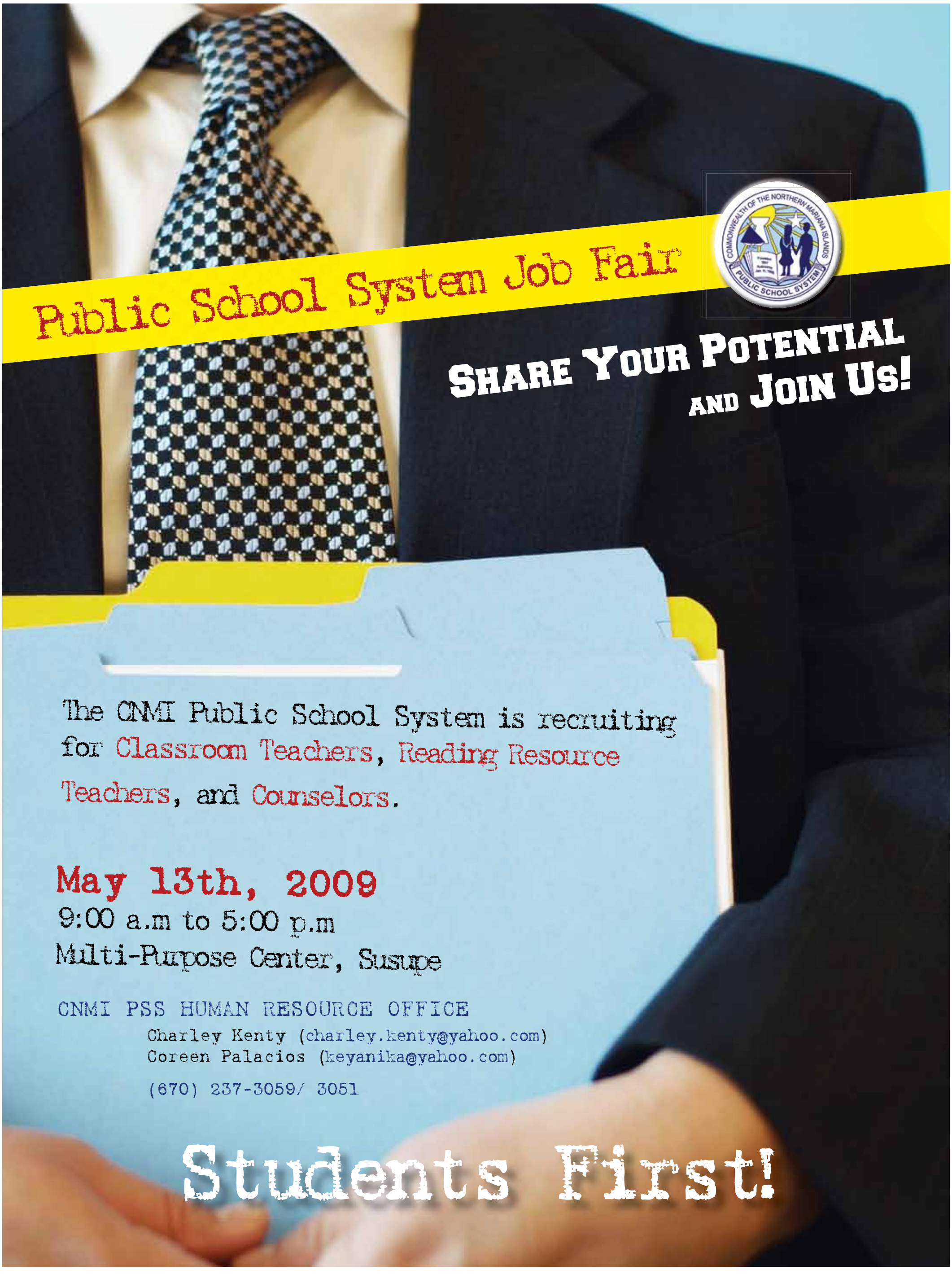
MAY 11, 2001

GHLIP: New premium rates lower

The newly-implemented comprehensive insurance coverage is one cent lower and four cents cheaper for critical illness premiums, the Group Health and Life Insurance Program disclosed yesterday. Compared with the previous premium rate of 35 cents paid by the government for each employee, it will now subsidize only 34 cents. This, after the NMI Retirement Fund entered into an agreement with an independent insurance firm last month. GHLIP Manager Dolores Moore said while the new insurance package is cheaper, the Individual Assurance Company coverage will be more comprehensive since most critical illnesses will be covered.

Illegal recruitment victim pleads guilty to counterfeit

The federal court ordered yesterday the deportation of one of five illegal recruitment victims in a US dollar counterfeiting case after the defendant entered a guilty plea on charges of uttering counterfeit obligations and securities. US District Court Alex R. Munson ruled that defendant Rolando Lambid, 35, be removed from the CNMI on or before June 30, 2001 and be sent back to the Philippines. Penalties of the crime which the defendant had pleaded guilty to carried a maximum 15 years in prison, a maximum of $250,000 fine, mandatory special assessment of $100 and a supervised release of no more than three years.


Public School System Job Fair
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
SHARE YOUR POTENTIAL AND JOIN US!
The CNMI Public School System is recruiting for Classroom Teachers, Reading Resource Teachers, and Counselors.
May 13th, 2009
9:00 a.m to 5:00 p.m
Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe
CNMI PSS HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
Charley Kenty (charley.kenty@yahoo.com)
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Students First!

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

Fairness in the torture probe

Lawyers in the Justice Department gave the Bush administration legal cover to use harsh interrogation techniques, including waterboarding. There is little dispute that some of the legal work was sloppy or overbroad, including breathtaking assertions about the president's powers; in fact, some memos were retracted or revised by Bush administration officials who took office after the memos were in effect. Now there is an intense debate about whether the lawyers responsible for the original memos should be stripped of their licenses for providing faulty advice or for tailoring their recommendations to bless Bush administration acts they knew or should have known were questionable, if not illegal.

The Justice Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) is putting the finishing touches on a report that is said to focus extensively on the work of former Bush administration lawyers Jay Bybee, now a federal appeals judge, and John Yoo, now a professor of law. Both men worked in the Office of Legal Counsel, which provides the executive branch with binding legal interpretations on a wide array of matters; both played key roles in crafting or signing off on the so-called torture memos.

Investigations of this type are usually kept secret unless and until the investigating entity determines that wrongdoing has occurred. There's a certain logic and decency to this: Mere news that someone is under investigation is often enough to tarnish that person's reputation—even if charges ultimately are not brought. Yet the existence of the investigation and many details of the OPR report have already found their way into the public arena. For example, *The Post* and other news outlets have reported that the OPR will recommend that Bybee and Yoo be referred to their respective bar associations for possible sanctions.

The best way to proceed — both to ensure fairness and to fulfill the strong and legitimate public need to know how questionable policies and legal opinions came into being—is to make all material relating to this investigation public, regardless of the Justice Department's findings. Documents that should be released include the full OPR report, all submissions by the subjects of the probe, and the letter written by former attorney general Michael Mukasey and former deputy attorney general Mark Filip that criticized the draft report.

We disagree profoundly with the Bush administration's decisions to employ waterboarding and other harsh methods—not only because of their dubious legality but also because their use is immoral and damaging to the United States' standing in the world. We have also taken issue with many of the extreme assertions contained in the Office of Legal Counsel memos. But a decision to punish former Bush administration officials must be made on a thorough and fair rendering of facts—what did the lawyers do, and why—and not on the basis of policy disagreements. After all, a lawyer could act in "good faith" in rendering advice, thus meeting ethical and legal obligations, and still be guilty of exercising bad judgment. Disclosure of the full record on this matter is necessary to give the public confidence that justice has been done.

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From Guantanamo to Alexandria

By JIM MORAN
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a Democrat, represents Virginia's 8th District in the U.S. House.

WASHINGTON—Obama administration officials say a final decision has not been made about where to relocate the 241 foreign nationals being held at the Guantanamo Bay detention facility and/or where to put them on trial. Such public statements, though, have not stopped rumors about which federal prisons or military brigs might be used to house the detainees. Indeed, the Keep Terrorists Out of America Act introduced last week and other legislation seek to prevent detainees from being sent to certain states or taxpayer funds from being spent to transfer Guantanamo detainees to U.S. soil. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said recently that he expects 535 bills, one for each senator and House member, to be introduced before a decision is made.

Some of the speculation has focused on the Albert V. Bryan U.S. Courthouse and Detention Center in Alexandria, which is in the district I represent in Congress.

First, let's be clear: President Obama and Sen. John McCain both pledged last year to close the Guantanamo facility because they recognized that the United States is governed by the rule of law and defined by our embrace of universal human rights. Indefinitely detaining individuals without charge violates the most basic principle of habeas corpus, greatly damages our international reputation, and fuels both terrorist recruitment and anti-American sentiment.

While closing Guantanamo would go a long way toward removing this stain on our national character, the decision to do so was the easy part. What to do with the detainees who remain of the more than 700 sent there since 2001 is much more difficult.

Like those in any other congressional districts, we Virginians would rather not have terrorism suspects held and tried in our back yard. Should some of the detainees at Guantanamo be sent to the Alexandria courthouse, there is no question that people in the immediate vicinity — more than 10,000 residents and workers during business hours — would be affected. The strain on local law enforcement and other public safety officers would be significant. The media attention following such a decision would probably generate public outrage in some circles over safety concerns, regardless of the security measures implemented.

Often, though, doing the right thing is neither popular nor convenient.

By and large, Alexandrians are civic-minded people and are ready to do their duty if it serves the greater good. They have shown this public spirit time and again. The "20th hijacker," Zacarias Moussaoui, who participated in planning the Sept. 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon, was held and prosecuted in the Alexandria courthouse. Others who have been brought to justice in the court include the "American Taliban" John Walker Lindh; Beltway sniper John Allen Muhammad; and spies Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames.

In each case, Alexandria demonstrated the kind of courage and patriotism that can be traced to the city's roots as the home town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee.

Taking the easy route and joining the chorus of those crying "not in my back yard" is appealing. But that's not the Alexandria I know and have represented in Congress for nearly 20 years. Even before that, I served as mayor of the city, and I am confident that if asked to step forward, Alexandria would demonstrate resolve for a higher purpose, echoing John F. Kennedy's call to accept the challenge presented because it is what happens to be right and good for our nation.

Trying the accused, no matter how heinous the accusation, in a fair and transparent judicial procedure will reestablish our international moral authority and thus strengthen our national security.

Let there be no mistake: I'm not advocating for this burden. If there are more suitable locations in which to try the detainees, it would be a relief to all in this area.

But should President Obama determine that Alexandria needs to play a reasonably limited role in a nationwide effort to bring justice to the Guantanamo detainees and close this unfortunate chapter of American history, I am confident that Alexandrians will stand strong as they always have: gritting their teeth, stiffening their spines and carrying the load required so that the American values of justice and the rule of law are not overridden but, rather, respected and honored, as is our heritage as a great nation.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The next 100 days

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

It was from FDR's Congressional Bills passed within the first 100 days of his administration as a response to the Great Depression that the American government and media latched on to the image of the first 100 days. Thus, was the spin of the New Deal born, and the man in the oval office become a legend. Romanticized in the era of JFK's Camelot, fact segued into fiction, humans turned mythical, and an imaginary chronological time became a hyped assessment deadline. Obama was astute enough to know that he has to turn myth into an instrument of good order and possible future.

No harm done. Hence, political spin became more sophisticated and the assault of partisanship became more vicious. This period has come to designate the clear delineation on where the line is drawn. Today, that line divides the prophets of doom against the preachers of hope, the pastors of illusion against the priesthood of all workers and laborers.

Historian Arthur Schlesinger described the mood at FDR's inauguration: "It was now a matter of seeing whether a representative democracy could conquer economic collapse. It was a matter of staving off violence—even, some thought—revolution."

Today, in Obama's watch, it has become a matter of seeing whether direct democracy could conquer the castrating incisions of fear, the malaise of centralized dependence on highly paid expertise—federal, regional and local, and the wide and various practices of "the buck stops elsewhere." Ours is a matter of overcoming apathy and indecision; in fact, ours is a promotion of a subversive but quiet revolution, in consciousness first, governance second, and economy third. The oft-quoted Orwellian dictum applies: "In a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act."

To continue on the imagery of 100 days (the Semitic tradition was guided by the number 40, the length of a generation, and therefore, a unit of transition from one dispensation to another, e.g. forty years wandering in the desert for the Israelites, and forty days and forty nights for Jesus' meditation, contemplation and prayer in the wilderness) is not to engage in historical chronology but to pursue an articulation of meaning and significance, of portraying visions and strategizing missions towards either the killing fields of doom, or the flowering of spring in a thousand gardens in the land. The new garden in the White House is not just for photo ops, it represents a call for one and all to begin the greening of America at the local level. Known practices of water and soil conservation in our homes and out foothills would be a good start.

So we ask the question, not what Obama is up to in the next 100 days, but what direct democracy is stirring to redirect the cultural, political and economic journey of the United States of America. It is high time that this young nation of practical immigrants be true to its character rather than continue to kowtow to the dictates of Whigs and Tories long after the American revolution from royalty and privileged have allegedly been completed.

At the end of the Bush era, the numbers are startling. One percent of the population in America owns 50 percent of its wealth. More than 30 years ago, I found myself in the company of ethicist declaring that the moral contradiction of our time is an economic one, that 85 percent of the world's resources serves the interest and comfort of 15 percent of the population. This was a jab at distributive justice.

"No one is ever rich enough to quit from wanting more," said one of our industrial barons. The Buffets and the Gates seem to have internalized that wisdom. Happily, instead of anxiously going for more, they seem to have turned the power of their assets, at least for now, with due consideration to alleviating what ails the common weal.

In my youth, one of the rich Delgados in the Philippines, an aspiring lawyer commented: "just how many sports cars can anyone drive or silk suits can any person wear in a lifetime." Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to find out. He was tragically involved in a car accident and had to wear his last silk suit in a hearse. But the lesson was impressed upon me early on, so much so that whatever passion I might have exhibited on the way to my sunset years, to the great dismay of my progeny, had not been in the pursuit, let alone, the accumulation of wealth

Let us be clear, though. I am not against holding on to the value added to the any enterprise anyone engages in. I had been with too many NGOs and even religious institutions to have given enough speeches about insuring that services tendered be commercially viable for them to continue. We have too many grant pursuers particularly in former members of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands—in education, public works, and even those engaged in special services to special needs—whose sole intent is to get seeding funds but callously let many of its offshoots wither by the wayside.

Jim Hightower of Texas, the eloquent, literate and loquacious populist has been waging war against our plutocrats for many years. Today, he says, populism is a rebellion against corporate power, the governance of the wealthy. David Korten's best seller, *When Corporations Rule the World*, recently revised and reissued, has fueled authentic democratic movements. One need not go too deeply on today's news to realize that lobbyist of corporations are well-poised and well-funded to despoil anything the Obama White House throws at corporate structures ardently protecting their turf in such fields as health and medicine, armaments and aerospace, and financial and trade services.

We do not have to go far to see this. The successful watering down of the original provisions of the Marianas Marine Monument that the Friends are now trying to rectify, is being defended by those who opposed the declaration of the monument in the first place. The bottom line, which is not even hidden let alone denied, is clearly the access to mineral and fisheries resources. Pinpoint those with vested interest in mining and commercial fishing and we would not be too far from those who will nurse their purses first before deigning to look at those eagerly waiting for the trickle down benefits under the klieg-light feast of the well-off, the well-to-do, and the well-connected.

Distributive justice. From the perspective of governance, it is taxing the privileged to ensure that the lower rungs of the economic pyramid are not treated simply as accounting units, but as human beings of whom the Danes refer to when they say: No one is rich enough to not be in need of a neighbor. Creating viable and vibrant communities is the antidote to periodic collapses of top-down economic systems. More on this in the next 100 days!

Letters to the Editor

Plea for improved immigration status

To the world, the CNMI could be nothing, but for us, the CNMI is our world.

When the CNMI turned its back on us, I never lost hope. Because I believe that America is a land of freedom, equality, opportunities, hopes, and dreams. Now that the regulations for the transitional workers will be drafted, I am requesting your good heart to consider giving improved status for long-term guest workers who have worked and lived in the CNMI legally. To consider the contributions the guest workers have made in this island, not our island, but an island we have considered home.

I am not trying to boast but just want to inform that through the CNMI's highest and lowest economic situation, we are here, we remain, as the key workforce.

We are willing to undergo the usual screening and processing of U.S. immigration laws, but please consider our length of stay, our contributions, our skills, professions, and experience. We are paying taxes in a timely manner, do volunteer community services, and never been a burden to CNMI government and community.

Whether the people of the CNMI admit it or not, our presence made living here more pleasant.

Please consider also the welfare of our U.S. citizen children. Because if you truly believe, that the children are the future, you might be loosing the best assets for the better future of the CNMI. For these children of guest workers are usually the ones excelling in whether academics and sports.

And these are the same children, representing the CNMI in every regional competition and come home most of the time with pride and honor for the CNMI. They may not have the blood of real Chamorro or Carolinian but the love for this island as their own homeland run in their blood too. They got the privilege to be called the citizens of the greatest nation, but please give them the privilege to stay in as much as they want together with their parents.

Be it known also that even some of the guest workers have been representing the CNMI in international competitions whether in sports or in arts and have proven themselves champions in their field. That helps the CNMI to be known in some part of the world.

And if what you are saying is true, that once federalization kicks in, there would be more stability in the CNMI economy, then the more you would be needing us. For we have proven ourselves to be survivors for we remain and stay throughout the CNMI's economic ups and downs.

We may not be the best guest workers in the world, but we have tried and worked very hard to do the best we can to keep the CNMI economy survive.

We have endured the name calling—from animals to dreamers, to opportunist, to activist, for questioning and requesting to improve the status of our lives—and yet we opt to stay and work here, because we are believers of equality that the federal government would grant us.

Malou H. Berueco
As Gono

Bad press about Saipan

I really think it's a shame that every time I do an Internet search about Saipan, I run into a bunch of articles from the Irish press griping and complaining about a place they have never been to, much less heard of. Turns out that in 2002, there was some kind of beef between the Irish football/soccer team during a training exercise, henceforth referred to as the "Saipan Incident". There's even a Wikipedia entry (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2002_Roy_Keane_Saipan_incident).

That's all well and good, but it seems that nowadays the very word "Saipan" is almost a curse on the Emerald Isle. Do a Google search for "Saipan Ireland" and you'll see what I mean. Maybe there should be some kind of high-level meeting between Irish and CNMI officials, or even a goodwill game between the two teams. Or just invite members of the Irish media over for a barbecue.

I read somewhere that South Korea is spending money internationally on bringing a more positive image of themselves to the minds of people in other countries. Maybe the CNMI government should consider something similar. Koreans and Japanese know Saipan very well, so we don't need to worry about brand awareness in those countries. Probably people in the mainland USA, if they have heard of Saipan at all, only know the garment factories, the Abramoff scandal, and the recent debacle regarding the lieutenant governor. Something should be done about this.

Rick Vaughn
Chicago, Illinois

On deportation

Since the realization that federalization of the CNMI's locally controlled immigration would become an imminent reality, there has been quite a hue and cry from certain sectors of the local nonresident population which has served to draw in many local, and vocal, residents.

The outcry has decidedly polarized the entire NMI—some sounding humanitarian "reasons" for giving "special consideration" to those nonresidents who decided to have babies—thus, U.S. citizens by virtue of birth. And no one (I believe) purposely minimizes the contributions of these nonresidents to the enhancement of the NMI over many years.

Then there is the "other" side; nonresidents deserve no "special considerations" because they came here for "temporary" jobs—not babies and a future life as somehow deserving of "enhanced (U.S.) status" due to nothing more than longevity (and children).

These compelling arguments on both "sides," and more, will drone on and on until the federal government finally issues those long-awaited final rules and sets up shop later this year. At that point, arguments will no longer matter and action will commence.

Well, here's what (I believe) you can expect: On this past Thursday evening, *The CBS Evening News* reported the following U.S. Immigration Service statistics regarding deportations from the U.S. of so-called "illegal" aliens. The USCIS has just released the number of nonresidents deported from the U.S. Who had U.S. citizen CHILDREN, many of whom had been in the U.S. for 10 or more years and held jobs—some of them very highly placed jobs.

That figure is 360,000 persons with U.S. children! In most cases, the children went "back home" with their deported parents—giving up friends, schools, homes, and all the "niceties" of being "U.S." Of course, a few stayed behind (usually the older ones) with other families—after all they are U.S. citizens and have the right to be here—and to petition the return of their parents once they reach the age of 21. But this means the "break-up" of families, and that is primarily what local CNMI nonresidents are fighting over—but it didn't matter one whit in the States—did it?

Now that averages out to around 7,200 people from each and every state. If the USCIS can do that, on that scale, then I really don't think the few people in the CNMI who are asking for "special consideration" stand much of a chance—do they? If the law is to be applied without discrimination throughout the U.S., then those CNMI nonresidents who cannot or do not qualify under normal immigration pathways to remain, need to start planning for their future; a future that will probably send them (and their children) home—for now.

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

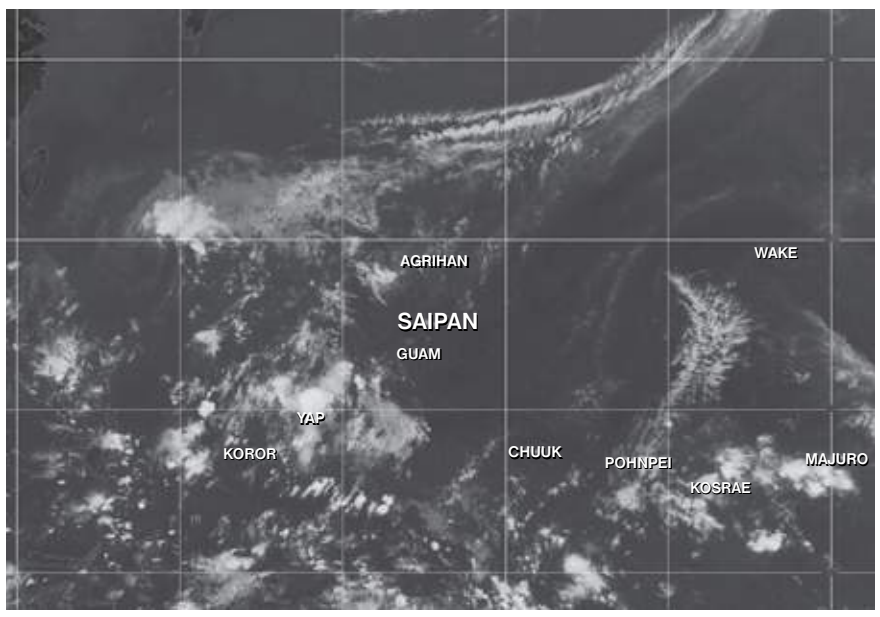
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲86	▼76
Palau	Rain	▲86	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲83	▼77
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲85	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Thunderstorms	▲58	▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼63
Hong Kong	Sunny	▲85	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲82	▼71
London	Cloudy	▲57	▼46
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲78	▼60
Manila	Rain	▲86	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲61	▼45
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼73
New York	Partly Sunny	▲64	▼50
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲79	▼62
Paris	Dreary	▲68	▼51
Pusan	Cloudy	▲70	▼60
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲76	▼56
Salem	Cloudy	▲61	▼45
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼50
Seoul	Rain	▲72	▼54
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲69	▼48

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, MAY 10, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Surface convergence east of tropical depression Chan-hom is causing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of a line from 19N131E to 22N132E. A cold front extends southwestward from 25N155E to end at 19N148E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 300 miles northwest of the front. A weak surface circulation is near 3N139E. A broad area of low-level convergence is across the Palau and Yap areas. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found in an area from 9N130E to 13N140E to 9N145E to 6N130E back to 9N130E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms from near Pohnpei eastward across Kosrae to the southern Marshall Islands in an area from 7N158E to 8N166E to 6N172E to 2N166E to 4N157E back to 7N158E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

3:10 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
7:46 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
3:16 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
10:25 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:50 AM	6:37 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Wednesday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Thursday	5:49 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:32 PM	7:01 AM
Tuesday	9:23 PM	7:52 AM
Wednesday	10:11 PM	8:44 AM
Thursday	10:56 PM	9:36 AM
Friday	11:37 PM	10:27 AM

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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 9, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

CO9597	11:50am	12:25pm	1,7

SAIPAN-GUAM

CO9317	4:30am	5:20am	Daily
CO9313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
CO9597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7
CO9601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
CO9603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
CO9605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
CO9599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

CO9598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
CO9312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-PALAU (ROR)

CO893	5:50pm	6:50pm	3, 5
CO953	6:50pm	7:50pm	1, 7
CO953	7:35pm	10:05pm	2, 4, 6

PALAU (ROR)-MANILA

CO893	7:35pm	9:10pm	3, 5

GUAM-MANILA

CO893	5:50pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via ROR
CO933	7:00pm	8:40pm	Daily
PR111	6:00am	7:45am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25am	Daily

GUAM-NARITA (NRT)

CO961	6:35am	9:10am	Daily
NW83	8:00am	1:55pm	Daily via KIX
CO6	12:00pm	2:45pm	Daily
NW73	4:05pm	7:00pm	Daily
CO963	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1
OZ119	4:20am	7:00am	4,6

GUAM-OSAKA (KIX)

NW83	8:00am	10:45am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

GUAM-NAGOYA (NGO)

CO971	7:45am	10:30am	Daily
NW23	4:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
CO975	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	excl 1
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1 via KIX
OZ119	4:20am	11:20am	4, 6 via KIX

SEOUL (ICN)-HONG KONG

OZ721	9:05am	11:45am	Daily
OZ723	7:45pm	10:30pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-MANILA

OZ701	8:35am	11:25am	Daily
OZ703	7:50pm	10:50pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

CO9598	3:25am	4:00am	5, 6
CO9312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

CO9316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
CO9598	2:20am	4:00am	5, 6 via ROP
CO9596	7:00am	5:00am	Daily
CO9600	10:20am	11:10am	Daily x6
CO9312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6
CO9602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
CO9604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
CO9606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

CO9597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

PALAU (ROR)-GUAM

CO954	1:10am	5:30am	3, 5, 7
CO954	1:45am	4:40am	1, 2
CO892	2:35am	5:30am	4, 6

MANILA-PALAU (ROR)

CO892	10:10pm	1:50am+1	3, 5

MANILA-GUAM

CO892	10:10pm	5:30am+1	3, 5 via ROR
CO934	10:55pm	4:30am+1	Daily
PR110	10:00pm	4:00am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:30pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	7:50pm	12:30am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-GUAM

NW74	10:00am	2:50pm	Daily
CO962	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily
CO7	3:50pm	8:25pm	Daily
NW84	6:20pm	1:40am+1	Daily
CO964	8:25pm	1:00am+1	Daily
NW82	8:30pm	1:05am+1	4
NW82	8:30pm	1:20am+1	X 4

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6

OSAKA (KIX)-GUAM

NW84	9:05pm	1:40am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-GUAM

NW24	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
CO970	11:30am	4:30pm	Daily
CO972	8:25pm	12:55am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 5, 6 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	excl 7

HONG KONG-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ724	12:30am	5:05am	Daily
OZ722	1:15pm	5:45pm	Daily

MANILA-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ702	12:45pm	5:45pm	Daily
OZ704	11:50pm	4:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Saipan forges visa-related pact with Chinese HR firm

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In his continuing effort to attract more tourism activities between Saipan and China, Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela recently forged a visa-related assistance agreement with the Guangdong Renfeng Human Resources Development Co. Ltd.

A letter of intent was signed between the two parties last April 19 in Guangzou, China during a visit by Tudela to the world's most populous nation.

The LOI said that in order to promote friendship between the Chinese and Saipan people and to develop economic cooperation, both parties agreed to provide visa-related service to Chinese citizens who would like to visit Saipan according to the principle of mutual trust and benefit.

However details of the agreement will be further discussed by the concerned offices of both parties.

Russia and China were not included in the visa waiver program that will be implemented when CNMI immigration is federalized in Nov. 28.

From Guangzou province, Tudela visited Yunnan Province where Saipan and the City of Chuxiong have signed an agreement to establish a friendly city relationship that would also deal with tourism and other economic activities.

Signed on April 25 by Chuxiong City mayor Yuan Peng and Tudela, the LOI promised to promote bilateral exchanges between the two locales.

The cooperation agreement will include industry, agriculture, trade, science and technology, arts, education, medicine, tourism, and "others which both sides from time to time shall determine beneficial and appropriate."

Accordingly, these objectives can be most effectively achieved through a friendly-city relation agreement between the two parties.

In line with this, the governments of both Saipan and Chunxiong have adopted resolutions through the principles of the Joint Communique on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between the United States and the People's Republic of China.

Tudela said some 30 Chinese would be visiting Saipan this summer through his personal invitations.

Tudela said that while meeting many Chinese government officials and private individuals during his China trip, he was able to promote Saipan as a prime tourist destination.

Inert and Live Fire Releases at FDM set

The Emergency Management Office, in conjunction with U.S. Naval Forces Marianas (N3) Guam, would like to inform the general public that the U.S. Military Unit would be conducting Inert Releases and Live Fire Releases (13 EBS) on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla. The schedule date and time is as follows:

- May 12-14, 2009 from 9am to 3pm - INERT RELEASES 13 EBS
- May 14-21, 2009 from 9am to 3am - CVW-9 LIVE FIRE RELEASES

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla Training Area (R7201) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is strongly advising the general public especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

The cooperation and understanding of the general public is greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. ***(PR)***

CHRISTENING

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A Christening party was held for Baby Joseph Kiyoshi last Friday, May 8. Baby Joseph is the son of Jose and Rosaline Kiyoshi.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Birthday greetings go out to Breana Ysabel A. Patawaran who is turning two years old today, May 11. "We love you so much sweetie…" Greetings coming from Daddy and Mommy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Nikisha Mae Malakai, left, and her sister, Noreen Gelene, are celebrating their birthdays today. Nikisha is turning 8 years old while Noreen is celebrating her first birthday. Warm greetings from Mom and Dad.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0903 Facsimile no. (670) 236-09900

NOTICE OF CLOSURE

Monday, May 04, 2009 (First Notice); Monday, May 11, 2009 (Second Notice)

Claim of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary's order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary's order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before May 25, 2009 with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Secretary's Appeal No.	Case No.	Appellants	Appellees
SA 2007-043	LC 98-402	American Kai Hua Corporation	Zheng, Feng Rong and Zhang, Zhanshan
SA 2007-050	LC 98-402	American Kai Hua Corporation	Zhang, Zhan Shan
SA 2007-062	LC 04-437	American Sai Green Corporation	Wen, Zhen Wong
SA 2007-019	LC 01-172	Crystal, Star Corporation	Liu, Geng Rong and Zhang, Jia Xian
SA 2007-058	LC 04-264	In Sook Heo	Jeon Company Inc.
SA 2007-044	LC 04-178	Michigan Inc.	Wang, Chen Tong
SA 2008-034	LC 07-334	Soleman	Zhu, Qing Zhen
SA 2008-010	CAC 05-091-04	Bautista, Alexander U.	All Around Services Inc.
SA 2007-79	LC 07-097	Caballero, Emily G.	Camacho, Crystal
SA 2006-020	DC 06-325,326,327 (Consolidated)	Cabrera, Edward C. and Hua Bofu, Bao Yuhua and Wang Yanni	Director of Labor
SA 2007-116	LC 06-12	Cruz, Danilo Y.	GTS Security Inc.
SA 2006-33	LC 06-131	Feng, Jianming	American Sai Green Corporation
SA 2006-001	DC 06-065	Glimpse of Guam Inc., James Ignacio	Director of Labor
SA 2007-033	LC 04-508	Hoque, Namzul	Marianas Hotel Services Limited
SA 2007-104	CAC 03-052-09	Hu, Yan Ping	Mirage Saipan Inc.
SA 2007-60	LC 99-075	Li, Quian	Trans-Asia Garment Mfg., Corporation
SA 2007-021	LC 02-156	Liu, Jiangtao	Jin Apparel Inc.
SA 2007-012	LC 03-032	Ming Li Corporation	Yi, Mingxu
SA 2007-013	LC 07-279	Neo Fashion Inc., and Marianas Insurance Company Limited	Zhao, Chun
SA 2006-039	CAC 04-025-05	Sun Mei Corporation, JSJ Corporation and Sun Qiao Lan	Director of Labor
SA 2007-102	CAC 04-016-03	Torculas, Catherine A.	Director of Labor
SA 2007-035	LC 04-410	United International Corporation	Ye, Jiamin
SA 2007-053	LC 04-607	United International Corporation	Li, Baofang
SA 2007-71	LC 07-168	Wang, Ju	Sheng Rong Dev., Corporation
SA 2007-32	LC 07-34 and CAC 07-086-08	Yan, Haibo	Dela Rosa, Mary M. and Joseph
SA 2007-024	LC 04-698	Yan, Luo	American Langente Corporation
SA 2007-68	LC 07-008	Gu, Xeutian	Jing Yang Corporation, et.al.
SA 2007-097	CAC 99-194-05	Valerie Joy B. Mapalo	Hole In The Wall and Misamis Spn Inc.
SA 2007-83	LC 07-169	Zhang, Xiuyun	Sheng Rong Dev., Corporation
SA 2007-003	DC 06-365	Yu, Wei	Director of Labor

Business

Swine flu is windfall for some tourist spots

By TRAVIS REED
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

People dance at the PM dance club and bar in Mexico City's trendy Condesa neighborhood, late Thursday, May 7, 2009.

The cruise Zenaiva Cervantes booked was to stop in sun-drenched beach cities on the Mexican Riviera. The cruise she took? That landed her in Seattle, where she pulled her arms tightly to her chest as she debarked on a damp, 50-degree morning.

"We wanted to relax in the warmth," the 61-year-old Tijuana, Mexico, resident said in Spanish Thursday. "If someone had told me I'd be in Seattle eight days ago, I wouldn't have believed them."

At the peak of the swine flu outbreak, major cruise operators Carnival Corp. and Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd.—desperate to avoid passenger illness and lost revenue—decided to reroute Mexico voyages until mid-June.

So even though fear has receded, once-sun-seeking passengers like Cervantes are finding themselves in San Francisco, Seattle and Victoria, British Columbia, in Canada. Cruise companies are compensating passengers for the switch with onboard credit plus vouchers for a future cruise. Passengers also had the choice to stay home and get a full refund, but most passengers are choosing to travel when they planned, the cruise lines said.

What they're losing in sunshine and tan lines, their new destinations are gaining in millions of dollars of business. In San Francisco, the 16 additional swine flu-related landings will boost the year's port traffic 31 percent and bring 49,000 new visitors, said Michael Nerney, San Francisco's maritime marketing manager. Each call could mean $1 million in sales for city businesses and together they'll produce $500,000 in revenue for the port.

"This is highly unusual—shocking, really—as the cruise lines set their sailing schedules 12 to 18 months in advance, and even minor changes are rare," Nerney said.

The great number of alternative ports in the Caribbean makes it far easier to swap stops there. Instead of Cozumel in Mexico, companies are opting for Ocho Rios or Montego Bay in Jamaica, Nassau or Freeport in the Bahamas, the Virgin Islands' St. Thomas, St. Maarten or Key West, Fla., or points across the Caymans and Turks and Caicos.

The Bahamas is happily awaiting diverted ships. Customs receives $15 for each passenger, and island clothing and jewelry shops, bars and cafes depend on tourist dollars, said tourism minister Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace said.

Analysts think the benefits may be fleeting for these ports because the outbreak hasn't been severe.

"I think it's a short-term bump that may already be dissipating," said Michael McCall, a hospitality research fellow and lecturer at Cornell University.

Obama: Send me credit card legislation this month

WASHINGTON (AP)—Send me a bill that stops credit card companies from taking advantage of consumers, and do it by month's end, President Barack Obama is demanding of Congress.

But there's no guarantee lawmakers will deliver by Memorial Day, and the banking industry is fighting back.

"Americans know that they have a responsibility to live within their means and pay what they owe," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address Saturday. "But they also have a right to not get ripped off by the sudden rate hikes, unfair penalties and hidden fees that have become all too common."

Legislation known as the Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights has passed the House and awaits action in the Senate, possibly in the coming week.

"You shouldn't have to fear that any new credit card is going to come with strings attached, nor should you need a magnifying glass and a reference book to read a credit card application. And the abuses in our credit card industry have only multiplied in the midst of this recession, when Americans can least afford to bear an extra burden," the president said.

The House measure would prohibit double-cycle billing and retroactive rate increases, and prevent companies from giving credit cards to anyone under 18.

Obama wants to sign the legislation by Memorial Day. "There is no time for delay. We need a durable and successful flow of credit in our economy, but we can't tolerate profits that depend upon misleading working families. Those days are over," he said.

UN: Treaty expanded by 9 more dangerous chemicals

GENEVA (AP)—A U.N.-sponsored treaty to combat highly dangerous chemicals has been expanded to include nine more substances that are used in pesticides, electronics and other products, U.N. officials said Saturday.

The additions include one called PFOS worth billions of dollars in a wide range of uses from making semiconductor chips to fighting fires. Another is lindane, a pesticide widely used in combatting head lice.

The chemicals accumulate in the environment up through the food chain and stay in people's bodies, said Donald Cooper, executive secretary to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs.

He said they travel long distances in the air.

The alarm over the original chemicals was sounded because they were being found in high concentrations in the fatty tissues and blood of the Inuit Indians in Canada even though they were thousands of miles away from the production or use of any of the chemicals, Cooper said.

Participating countries have one year to say whether they will ban or restrict the chemicals or whether they will need more time or an exemption, Cooper said.

The additions to the list make it possible for developing countries to receive international help in containing and destroying stockpiles of the chemicals which might otherwise seep into the soil and water supply, Cooper said.

The 2004 treaty aims to protect the environment and people's health from very dangerous chemicals that last a long time in the atmosphere, soil or water, and ultimately phase them out.

The treaty had included 12 chemicals, such as the widely banned pesticides DDT and chlordane. Countries that have ratified the treaty also enact national legislation to enforce the bans and restrictions it imposes.

Money or tradition: Ind. Amish face uneasy dilemma

TOPEKA, Ind. (AP)—A part-time construction job sturdied Orva Fry's financial foundation after he was laid off from an RV factory. It also kept the 41-year-old Amish father of two on steady spiritual ground.

Another way to make ends meet that Fry briefly considered—unemployment checks—went against his faith, which shuns all forms of government assistance.

That Fry even pondered signing up for jobless benefits illustrates a marked shift in the nation's third-largest Amish settlement, which is suffering steep unemployment following a decades-long shift from farming to factory work. Church and economic leaders say a growing number of the area's 23,000 Amish are breaking with centuries of tradition and taking government help to stay afloat.

Fry chose not to take jobless benefits and was called back to work at the RV factory in March after working alongside his brother for three months repairing a fire-damaged home. But the community pressure to adhere to this tradition is easing amid the worst recession in decades.

Bishops who once might have censured those who sought public assistance are reluctantly looking the other way.

"We prefer to supply ourselves, but I told people that if they have no other option and no other way to make ends meet then they can take it," said Paul Hochstetler, bishop of an Amish district east of Goshen.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Exxon begins drilling at Point Thomson

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Exxon Mobil says it has begun drilling at Alaska's Point Thomson oil and gas field. Patrick McGinn, a company spokesman, says drilling operations were launched Friday. In February, Exxon returned eight of its Point Thomson leases that were part of 13 added to the field in 2002. Exxon had promised to drill wells and begin producing oil within four years, but no drilling occurred. The state has been fighting with the Irving, Texas-based oil giant and other lease holders over the lack of progress there. Alaska officials have tried to cancel the leases, but in January it did allow Exxon to drill on two leases after the company said it would start production within five years.

Germany sees open questions in Opel bids

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's economy minister was quoted as saying Saturday that questions remain over plans by both Fiat SpA and auto parts maker Magna International Inc. to invest in General Motors' main European unit, Opel, and stressed that he is equally open to both suitors. Fiat's chief executive, Sergio Marchionne, has visited Germany twice in the past week to present officials his plan to make GM Europe, including German-based Adam Opel GmbH, part of a global powerhouse also including Chrysler. Canadian-based Magna has said it is in talks about options for Opel that might include taking a minority stake, but otherwise has given few details. "Both concepts, both Magna's and Fiat's, still include open questions that need to be cleared up," Economy Minister Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg was quoted as telling the weekly Der Spiegel. "For the time being, I view both concepts with the same openness and skepticism."

LCH.Clearnet receives takeover bid from consortium

NEW YORK (AP)—London-based LCH.Clearnet Group Ltd., a key European trading securities clearing house, has received a takeover bid for as much as $1.2 billion from a consortium of banks, including J.P. Morgan Chase Co., according to online media reports including The Wall Street Journal. LCH.Clearnet spokeswoman Andrea Schlaepfer, reached by telephone, confirmed Saturday that the company had received a takeover offer late Friday from a "consortium of ICAP plus some banks" but declined to comment on the financial details of the offer. According to online reports posted Saturday, the bank consortium also includes Deutsche Bank AG as well as eight other banks and London-based broker ICAP PLC. It offered the bid late Friday as part of an effort to cut costs of trading stocks, bonds and derivatives and to get more control over a business that the banks believe has significant earnings opportunity, according to WSJ.com.

Nation

Most Santa Barbara fire evacuations being lifted

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. (AP)—Thousands of residents were back home Saturday as a blanket of cool, moist air flowing in from the Pacific Ocean tamed a wind-driven wildfire that burned 80 homes along the outskirts of town during the week.

Cheers erupted at an evacuation center when Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown announced that mandatory evacuation orders for most areas were being downgraded to evacuation warnings, meaning residents could return but would have to remain alert.

Among the first to return were Jonathan Kenny, 44, and his wife, Susan Kim, 42, who found their home covered in ash but still standing near blackened hillsides that showed just how close the fire came.

"I feel like we dodged a bullet on this one," said Kenny, who watered plants and fed goldfish in a backyard pond.

"They're not floating belly up, so that's a good sign," Kim said.

But a short distance away up a narrow canyon road, gutted homes and burned out cars awaited the return of their owners. A scorched palm tree jutted toward a clear, blue sky and a lawn chair, scorched appliances and metal filing cabinets were among the few recognizable remnants.

More than 30,000 people had been under mandatory evacuation orders dating back as far as Tuesday afternoon, when the fire erupted just above Santa Barbara on the face of steep Santa Ynez Mountains. An additional 23,000 had been on evacuation standby.

By Saturday evening, well over half of the those residents were back in their homes, Santa Barbara County sheriff's Commander Darin Fotheringham said.

Notorious local winds known as "sundowners" sweeping from inland and down the face of the mountains drove the fire into outlying neighborhoods Wednesday afternoon, causing most of the destruction, and again late Thursday and early Friday.

A predicted sundowner failed to materialize Friday night, and instead the normal flow of air from the Pacific Ocean pushed ashore a dense, moist marine layer that didn't let the sun peek through until nearly midday. Officials had said an onshore flow would raise humidity levels and blow the fire away from developed areas on the foothills.

The National Weather Service on Saturday dropped fire weather warnings and predicted that overnight clouds and fog would continue through Monday morning before a return of a weak-to-moderate sundowners in the Santa Ynez range Monday night and into midweek.

Firefighters were cautious but said the blaze that had covered more than 13 square miles was 30 percent contained.

AP

The sun sets behind the ruins of a mansion at the top of Mission Canyon as the Jesusita fire ends its fifth day in Santa Barbara, Calif., Saturday, May 9, 2009.

Cleanup begins after Midwest storms killed 6

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Residents of the Midwest cleared away wreckage Saturday following a wave of powerful storms that splintered homes, knocked out power to thousands and killed six people.

Hundreds of homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed Friday in Kansas, Illinois, Kentucky and Missouri and 150,000 Missouri utility customers lost power. Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon declared a state of emergency.

"My primary concern is the safety of Missourians and this executive order makes state agency resources available to help communities respond to the storms," Nixon said.

In southern Illinois, more than 56,200 customers of the utility Ameren still had no electricity late Saturday, the company said.

Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn on Saturday declared three southern counties disaster areas.

Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear declared an emergency in central and south-eastern sections of his state Saturday, and West Virginia Gov. Joe Manchin made the same declaration for six counties in that state.

Trees were down and windows were broken on the campus of Southern Illinois University's Carbondale campus, but the school said weekend commencement ceremonies would go on scheduled. Friday's graduation ceremonies were canceled.

On Saturday, a line of thunderstorms stretched from Arkansas and northern Mississippi across Tennessee and Kentucky.

Some homes were evacuated early Saturday in southern West Virginia because of flooding caused by more than 2 inches of rain, said state Homeland Security Operations Director Paul Howard. High water also closed several main roads. No injuries were reported. Appalachian Power reported about 6,000 customers were still without service Saturday evening, down from about 10,000 earlier in the day.

The hardest hit area in West Virginia was Mingo County. Robert Jelacic, a Homeland Security shift leader, said Saturday evening that an aerial survey of the county determined that about 100 structures were destroyed, nearly 500 had major damage and more than 1,000 had minor damage. He said emergency personnel planned to deliver food and drinking water to the area Sunday.

ACROSS THE NATION

Texas boy, 7, dies after shot in mistaken trespass

HOUSTON (AP)—A 7-year-old boy who was allegedly shot in the head by a couple who thought he and three other people were trespassing on their property died Saturday, authorities said. Donald Coffey Jr. died Saturday morning at a Houston hospital, less than two days after the boy was struck in the head by shotgun pellets, Liberty County Sheriff's Cpl. Hugh Bishop said. Sheila Muhs and her husband, Gayle Muhs, both 45, were charged with second-degree felony counts of aggravated assault in the shootings Thursday. They were being held at Liberty County Jail with bail set at $25,000 each and had not yet retained an attorney, Bishop said. Bishop said the district attorney could upgrade the charges to murder on Monday, but investigators were "still trying to get the circumstances behind the incident."

Prof wanted in killings found dead in Ga. woods

ATHENS, Ga. (AP)—Cadaver dogs found the body of a wanted professor "beneath the earth" in the north Georgia woods Saturday, two weeks after police say he shot his wife and two other people to death outside a community theater, then vanished. Searchers found two guns near the body of marketing professor George Zinkhan, 57, but police wouldn't say how he died. They did say it appears he buried himself in brush and dirt. "A person who is not accustomed to the woods would never have found the body," said Athens-Clarke County Police Chief Joseph Lumpkin. Zinkhan disappeared after the April 25 shootings near the University of Georgia, where he'd had a spotless record since arriving to teach in the Terry College of Business in the 1990s.

NASA clears Atlantis for Monday launch to Hubble

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—After months of delay, NASA cleared space shuttle Atlantis for a Monday launch to the Hubble Space Telescope. Mission managers concluded Saturday that Atlantis is ready to take off on the long-awaited Hubble repair mission, the fifth and final one. Shuttle Endeavour is also in good shape at the other launch pad; it's on standby in case Atlantis is damaged during the flight and its seven astronauts need to be rescued. Weather forecasters gave good odds for launching Atlantis: 80 percent. What's more, things were looking more encouraging at the emergency landing site in Spain, where only a slight chance of rain is expected Monday. Liftoff time is just after 2 p.m. Atlantis' crew will perform five spacewalks on consecutive days to install new cameras and equipment at Hubble, and to repair some broken science instruments.

US, Costa Rica swine flu deaths reported

SEATTLE (AP)—A Washington state man with underlying heart conditions became the third person infected with swine flu to die in the U.S., health officials said Saturday, while Costa Rica reported the first swine flu death outside North America.

Japanese authorities, meanwhile, scrambled to limit contact with their country's first cases, and Australia and Norway joined the list of nations with confirmed cases of swine flu. A Snohomish County man in his 30s died on Thursday from what appeared to be complications from swine flu, the state Department of Health said in a statement. The man had underlying heart conditions and viral pneumonia at the time of his death, but swine flu was considered a factor in his death, the statement said.

The man, who was not identified, reportedly began showing symptoms on April 30. His death and the death of a 53-year-old man in Costa Rica on Saturday brings the global death toll to 53, including 48 in Mexico, three in the United States and one in Canada.

Like other deaths outside Mexico, the Costa Rican man suffered from complicating illnesses, including diabetes and chronic lung disease, the Health Ministry said.

Previously, U.S. authorities reported swine flu deaths of a toddler with a heart defect and a woman with rheumatoid arthritis, and Canadian officials said the woman who died there also had other health problems but gave no details.

In Mexico, where 48 people with swine flu have died, most of the victims have been adults aged 20 to 49, and many had no reported complicating factors. People with chronic illnesses usually are at greatest risk for severe problems from flu, along with the elderly and young children.

Cell phone ban may follow Mass. trolley crash

BOSTON (AP)—The head of the Boston-area transit authority said Saturday he'll ban all train and bus operators from even carrying cell phones on board after a trolley driver told police he was texting his girlfriend before a collision Friday.

About 50 people were hurt in the underground crash in downtown Boston, though none of the injuries was life-threatening.

The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority already bans operators from using cell phones and recently ran an internal ad campaign featuring a poster of an open cell phone that warned employees not to drive "under the influence."

But general manager Daniel Grabauskas said Saturday the temptation obviously was too great for some.

"I want to remove any temptation by one or two people stupid enough to think a moment of convenience is worth the lives of the people they're transporting," he said. "I'm not going to wait for someone to die to institute a policy whose time I think has come."

Grabauskas said the new ban would apply to anyone working on a train or bus. He said he hopes to have the policy in place within a week.

The proposal won quick support from Steve MacDougall, president and business agent of the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589, which represents most of the MBTA's roughly 6,000 employees

MacDougall said it was clear that Friday's accident could have been "far, far worse than it was."

He said he expects some resistance to the policy from union members who believe they're being punished for the irresponsibility of one employee. But he said he believes most workers eventually will embrace the change.

Asia

Desperation in Pakistani hospitals, refugee camps

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP)—Civilians cowered in hospital beds and trapped residents struggled to feed their children Saturday, as Pakistani warplanes pounded a Taliban-held valley in what the prime minister called a "war of the country's survival."

Warplanes and troops killed dozens of entrenched militants Saturday in the assault on northwestern Swat Valley, the army said.

The offensive has prompted the flight of hundreds of thousands of terrified residents, adding a humanitarian emergency to the nuclear-armed nation's security, economic and political problems. Desperate refugees looted U.N. supplies in one camp, taking blankets and cooking oil.

A suspected U.S. missile strike killed nine people, mostly foreigners, in South Waziristan, another militant stronghold near the Afghan border, Pakistani intelligence officials said. The identities of the victims remained unclear.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani directed millions of dollars to help the residents of a region where faith in the government is shaky, saying the army "can only be successful if there is support of the masses."

Gilani held an emergency Cabinet meeting Saturday. Speaking to reporters afterward, he called the Swat offensive a "war of the country's survival" but said the military could win.

AP

Children crowd a car to get free sweets at a refugee camp near Mardan, in northwest Pakistan, Saturday, May 9, 2009. Hundreds of thousands of residents have fled fighting in the northwestern Swat Valley area after a new military offensive began against Taliban militants.

Encouraged by the Washington, Pakistan's leaders launched the full-scale offensive on Thursday to halt the spread of Taliban control in districts within 60 miles (100 kilometers) of the capital, Islamabad.

Pakistan's army is fighting to wrest Swat and neighboring districts from militants who dominate the adjoining tribal belt along the Afghan frontier, where U.S. officials say al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden is likely holed up.

Witness accounts indicate that scores of civilians have already been killed or injured in the escalating clashes in the Swat, Buner and Lower Dir districts.

Even the medics are gone: Only three doctors remained Saturday at the hospital in Swat's main town, Mingora—all of them working flat out.

One of the patients, Omar Ali, said a mortar shell had crashed through the roof of his home near Mingora on Wednesday, killing his eight-year-old son. Ali, his wife and four more children were injured. Neighbors pulled them from the rubble and brought them to hospital.

"We are in pain. We are helpless and homeless," the tearful 45-year-old government worker told an Associated Press reporter who visited the clinic. "Even here, we are scared because we keep hearing explosions, gunfire and the noise of planes."

Nisar Khan, one of the three doctors left, said about 25 war-wounded were among the 100 patients.

It was unclear how many people remained in Mingora, but one resident too scared to try to flee said he was running short of food for his three children.

"We have no electricity, no running water, and we are almost out of food, milk and other things. We do not know what to do," Ikramullah Khan said.

US report blames Taliban for civilian deaths

KABUL (AP)—The U.S. coalition blamed Taliban militants Saturday for causing what Afghan officials say are dozens of civilian deaths during a prolonged battle that included American airstrikes. The U.S. said an unspecified number of civilians died but did not take responsibility for any deaths.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry declined to endorse the U.S. report, saying its own investigation would be completed soon.

Afghan officials have estimated up to 147 people died in the battle in the western province of Farah on Monday, but a U.S. spokeswoman called that number exaggerated. The U.S. report did not offer an estimate of the number killed in the battle.

The preliminary report said Taliban fighters herded Afghan villagers into houses to use as human shields while they fired on coalition forces in two villages in Farah. The report said that U.S. forces had responded to a call for help from Afghan forces and that militants attacked the troops from several locations.

Troops called for airstrikes on the militant positions, and a U.S. spokeswoman said Saturday that fighter aircraft made 13 passes over the two villages, using a combination of flares, strafing runs and bombs.

"The investigation suggests that villagers had taken refuge in a number of houses in each village. Reports also indicate that Taliban fighters deliberately forced villagers into houses from which they then attacked ANSF (Afghan security forces) and Coalition forces," a statement from the U.S. coalition said.

Red Cross hostage in Philippines calls family

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An Italian Red Cross worker being held by al-Qaida-linked militants in the southern Philippines has called his family, but there was no word on when his nearly four months of captivity might end, a spokeswoman said Saturday.

Eugenio Vagni, 62, spoke with his wife by telephone on Friday, said Anastasia Isyuk of the International Committee of the Red Cross office in Manila. She said she did not know details of the conversation.

"What's important for us is that it's 115 days and he's still held hostage and we hope that he will be released as soon as possible," she said.

The call came a day after Abu Sayyaf militants ambushed and killed a civilian and three police officers, including the provincial police chief, as they were en route to meet with troops involved in an operation to rescue Vagni.

Vagni along with fellow Red Cross workers Andreas Notter of Switzerland and Mary Jean Lacaba of the Philippines were kidnapped on Jan. 15 while inspecting a water sanitation project in a Jolo jail.

Lacaba was freed April 2 and Notter walked free more than two weeks later.

"There are a lot of efforts which aim at bringing about the safe and unconditional release of Eugenio," Isyuk said. "His safety is of paramount concern."

Reacting to local media reports, the Asia-Pacific operations chief of the ICRC said in a statement that it has not received any ransom demand. Alain Aeschlimann said the group's policy is not to pay ransom for any kidnapped staff. He also said they would not pay for information on Vagni.

The governor of Sulu province which includes Jolo ordered the rescue effort last month after negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf for the release of Vagni failed amid growing concerns for his health in the jungle. The 62-year-old is suffering from hypertension and needs surgery for a hernia.

Government blunts activism set off by China quake

CHENGDU, China (AP)—When a powerful earthquake flattened Sichuan province a year ago, community organizer Zhang Guoyuan seized the moment.

Within days, he was running an aid center and warehouse, coordinating 700 volunteers and taking in $1.6 million in donated food, medicines, supplies and cash.

Then the police told him to stop.

The catastrophic earthquake last May 12 set off an unprecedented surge of volunteerism in China. But the government, always wary of groups beyond its control, has since sought to restrain it—with considerable success.

"From the government's point of view, they're worried. They're afraid we'll do something," said Zhang, a fast-talking 29-year-old who dresses more like the ex-minor official he is than a grass-roots campaigner. "Really all we're trying to do is make society better."

The Chinese leadership has long restricted private activist groups, known as non-governmental organizations, or NGOs. After watching popular movements oust autocratic governments in Ukraine, Georgia and elsewhere earlier this decade, the government redoubled efforts to prevent such groups from becoming a social force that could challenge its authority.

Activists had hoped the quake would change that, opening up more space for private efforts to flourish.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Sri Lanka arrests 3 UK television journalists

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Sri Lankan police arrested three journalists for London-based Channel 4 television news Saturday on charges of tarnishing the image of government security forces, authorities said. Police spokesman Ranjith Gunasekera said the trio were arrested in the eastern city of Trincomalee on Saturday. He said investigations are continuing. Nick Paton-Walsh, the channel's Asian correspondent, spoke to the Associated Press by telephone shortly after the arrest, saying that he was being driven to the capital, Colombo, along with producer Bessie Du and cameraman Matt Jasper. The Channel 4 had been covering fierce fighting between government forces and the separatist Tamil Tigers.

N. Korea says dialogue with S.Korea out of question

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Saturday that it would not even consider talking with South Korea, lashing out at Seoul for criticizing the isolated country's human rights record. South Korea had been planning to propose talks on the two countries' troubled joint industrial complex, but the statement put any such talks in doubt. Relations between the sides have significantly deteriorated since Seoul's conservative President Lee Myung-bak took office in February last year. Since then, reconciliation talks were cut and all key joint projects—except the factory park in Kaesong just north of the border—were suspended. In late March, the North detained a South Korean worker for allegedly denouncing the communist country's political system—a further strain on ties.

Hospital: Taiwan's jailed ex-president dehydrated

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Former Taiwanese President Chen Shui-bian was hospitalized for dehydration Saturday, a hospital official said, after he went on a two-day hunger strike to protest his detention over graft charges. Television footage showed police officers moving a pale-looking Chen, with his eyes closed, on a gurney into the Taipei County Hospital in Banciao in suburban Taipei. Tucheng Detention Center—where Chen has been held since November on corruption charges—said in a statement that the former leader was transferred to the hospital after he showed signs of dehydration Saturday morning. It said he refused water and solid food for two days.

World

Pope in Israel seeks closer Jewish-Catholic bond

By VICTOR L. SIMPSON and ARON HELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

In a wall of the tiny museum at Rome's majestic central synagogue hangs a copy of the 1555 edict of Pope Paul IV that confined the Jews to the ghetto, branding them as killers of Christ.

The display stands as an permanent reminder of the tortured two-millennia history of Jewish-Catholic relations—an estrangement that only in the past 50 years has begun to heal.

Now the pope is about to visit Israel and plans to stop at Judaism's holiest place, the Western Wall, and pay his respects at the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial. Benedict XVI is the third pope to visit the Holy Land, but he carries an especially heavy load of historical and psychological baggage.

AP

Pope Benedict XVI, left, flanked by Prince Ghazi Bin Talal leaves the King Hussein Bin Talal mosque after a visit, in Amman, Saturday, May 9, 2009.

The steady progress in Jewish-Catholic relations is marred by continuing controversy over whether the Vatican did enough to save Jews from Hitler in World War II. Benedict himself is German, and like many youngsters of the time, served in the Hitler Youth movement. He stirred uproar by his recent reconciliation with a rebel bishop who turned out to be a Holocaust denier.

Still, that the 82-year-old pope is making the trip at all is a testament to the ability of Catholics and Jews to overcome the recent disputes. Benedict is recognized in Israel as a friend and supporter of the Jews and can expect a warm welcome when he arrives in Jerusalem on Monday during his weeklong pilgrimage to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

"My primary intention is to visit the places made holy by the life of Jesus, and, to pray at them for the gift of peace and unity for your families, and all those for whom the Holy Land and the Middle East is home," Benedict said last week in a message addressed to Jordanians, Israelis and Palestinians.

Benedict has already had to tread carefully during the first leg of his Holy Land trip to predominantly Muslim Jordan. Three years ago, the pope angered many in the Muslim world when he quoted a Medieval text that characterized some of Islam's Prophet Muhammad's teachings as "evil and inhuman."

After arriving on Friday, Benedict said he has "deep respect" for Islam. After visiting the country's largest mosque on Saturday, the religious adviser to Jordan's King Abdullah II thanked Benedict for expressing regret that his comments offended Muslims.

Benedict goes to Israel on Monday, and his visit there highlights how much has changed in the 45 years since Pope Paul VI became the first pontiff to visit the Jewish state.

The Israel leg of Paul's pilgrimage was called unofficial, and during the 11-hour stop he never publicly mentioned Israel by name. The Vatican had no diplomatic ties with the Jewish state, and the pilgrimage was meant to unify Christians, not win Israel's friendship.

But Paul also played a vital role in the momentous changes that would follow. During his papacy, the Vatican issued a 1965 document that rejected the notion that Jews were collectively responsible for the death of Christ.

Iraqi leader calls for anti-corruption campaign

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq should launch an anti-corruption campaign that would match the fight it has waged against insurgents and militias, the country's prime minister said Saturday amid increasing complaints over criminality in the government.

Nouri al-Maliki told representatives of the powerful northern Shammar tribe that bureaucrats stealing public money are just as bad as criminals robbing jewelry stores, referring to a bold heist in Baghdad last month.

"We should launch a campaign against those corrupt people just as we had launched a campaign against outlaws," he said.

Corruption watchdog Transparency International rated Iraq in 2008 as the third most corrupt country in the world after Somalia and Myanmar. But the Iraqi government has long downplayed the corruption riddling the country's ministries and hamstringing its reconstruction efforts after years of war.

Last month, Iraqi police went to arrest several Trade Ministry officials, including two of the minister's brothers, on charges of embezzling $7 million, but they were held off by security guards until the wanted men could escape.

"The government and the people should cooperate to get rid of the corrupt elements stealing the public money," al-Maliki said.

Iraq has struggled with corruption since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, and government workers have been accused of absconding with billions of dollars earmarked for reconstruction, military supplies and food.

The U.S. special inspector general for Iraq reconstruction, Stuart Bowen, once described corruption as a "second insurgency," noting that not only was it preventing rebuilding but it was funding militants.

In 2007, the former head of the state anti-corruption commission, Radhi al-Radhi, said some $8 billion had been lost.

But there are increasing signs that Iraqis have become fed up with the situation, and some officials have taken more vigorous efforts to stop corruption.

"Corruption is a violation of both religious and moral norms and laws," the influential Iraqi Shiite preacher Sheik Abdel-Mahdi Karbalai said in his weekly sermon on Friday. He estimated that a third of the government was corrupt.

Cuban parliament president dismisses Obama

KINGSTON, Ontario (AP)—Cuban Parliament President Ricardo Alarcon dismissed President Barack Obama's recent overtures to Cuba and said Saturday for the first time that the new U.S. administration's stance is "the continuation of an illegal, unjustifiable and failed policy."

Obama has suggested it may be time for a new beginning with Cuba, and the White House authorized unlimited travel and money transfers for Americans with relatives in Cuba. But his administration has said it would like Cuba to respond by making small political and social changes to its single-party communist system.

"In other words Cuba must change and behave in accordance with Washington's wishes," Alarcon said at the close of a Cuban academic conference in Canada.

"That attitude is not only the continuation of an illegal, unjustifiable and failed policy, it is also the consequence of a profound misconception, a false perception of itself that lies as the foundation of the U.S. role in the world."

The U.S. has long sought what it considers real change from Cuba in human rights, free speech, free markets and democratic government.

Last month, President Raul Castro said Cuba was willing to discuss "everything" with the U.S., leading to hopes that a door was opening to a new relationship.

WORLD BRIEFS

South Africa swears in Zuma as new president

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP)—Jacob Zuma took power Saturday in the culmination of an extraordinary political comeback, pledging to Nelson Mandela and the nation to renew the spirit of commitment and hope of South Africa's first black presidency. Zuma was once imprisoned under apartheid and spent years in exile before surviving corruption and sex scandals and a party power struggle to reach the nation's highest office. He has been embraced by many South Africans with a fervor usually reserved for Mandela. The elder statesman was cheered as he arrived for the inauguration in a golf cart to join the 5,000 VIP guests and tens of thousands of ordinary South Africans who had gathered for the ceremony.

Frogs flown from Montserrat to flee deadly fungus

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—Scientists are airlifting dozens of one of the world's largest frogs off of Montserrat island to save them from a deadly fungus devastating their dwindling habitat. The dense forest of this tiny British Caribbean territory is the last remaining stronghold of the critically endangered mountain chicken frog, a 2-pound (0.9 kg), frying pan-size amphibian that got its name because locals say its meat tastes like—you guessed it—chicken. Once eaten as a delicacy, the frog was hunted and much of its habitat on Montserrat was destroyed by the temperamental Soufriere Hills volcano. Now experts fear a virulent fungus could decimate the few thousand frogs they estimate survive.

Lebanese gays take fight for their rights public

BEIRUT (AP)—In the Arab world, where several nations have seen killings of gay men in recent months, it can be startling to see a rainbow flag unfurled in public. But the region's only overt gay rights organization, based in Lebanon, says it is slowly making progress in preventing discrimination and violence. Now the group, Helem, is preparing for a campaign to overturn the law that makes homosexuality illegal. In a dramatic step, Helem organized what may have been the only gay rights protest in the Arab world. In February, nearly two dozen gays and lesbians waved rainbow flags in a downtown Beirut square, carrying banners demanding homosexual rights. They protested what they said was the beating of two gay men by police.

Muslim Brotherhood: Obama's Egypt trip 'useless'

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's most powerful opposition group, the Muslim Brotherhood, on Saturday called President Barack Obama's upcoming trip to Egypt "useless" unless the U.S. shows dramatic change in its policies toward Arab and Islamic countries.

The White House on Friday announced that Obama would deliver a speech in Egypt on U.S. relations with the Muslim world on June 4 as he seeks to repair damaged ties between America and Islamic countries.

But the Brotherhood's deputy leader, Mohammed Habib, said he was skeptical about Obama's intentions, according to comments posted on the group's Web site.

The trip will be "useless unless it is preceded by real change in the policies of the U.S. administration toward the Arab and Islamic world," Habib said.

"The U.S. administration is attempting to recruit all the Arab states ... to implement its permanent agenda that favors the Zionist entity," he added, referring to the United States' close ties to Israel.

In recent years, Egypt has cracked down on the hard-line Islamic group, jailing hundreds of its members and prohibiting it from officially taking part in political activities.

Though the Brotherhood is banned in Egypt, its members continue to operate hospitals, schools and other charities and has considerable sway among many of the country's 76 million people. Its lawmakers, who run as independents, hold 88 seats in Egypt's 454-seat parliament.

It also has close ties to the militant Hamas, which began as an offshoot of the Brotherhood in the 1970s and now controls the Gaza Strip.

Health & Fitness

L-theanine comes into focus

By SHARI ROAN
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

Energy drinks and fortified waters are getting L-theanine.

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Loaded with caffeine and taurine to stimulate the central nervous system, energy drinks have become the go-to solution when you need a quick, energizing pick-me-up.

But sometimes energy isn't what you need. Concentration and attention can start to fade in the face of those midafternoon doldrums and a host of distractions. Something to perk up the mind and enhance focus would do the trick.

Some beverage manufacturers say they have just the solution. They're touting a new kind of drink that emphasizes focus over ferocity. The key substance is the amino acid L-theanine, which preliminary research suggests might calm the brain to enhance concentration and mental stamina.

Certain formulations of SoBe Lifewater and Vitamin Water contain L-theanine, as does a new beverage called ViB. And Gatorade recently introduced a drink with the amino acid as well. That product—Tiger—was named for and marketed by golfer Tiger Woods, the king of concentration in the sports world.

"Focus and concentration is the next generation of the energy drink," says Scott Smith, vice president of Taiyo International, a major producer of L-theanine in a patented tea extract called Suntheanine. "This will put you in an alert state—in a zone—but it's not going to keep you up at night."

L-theanine is not a new discovery. The substance comes from the Camellia sinensis plant species, otherwise known as tea.

Despite its caffeine content, tea is cherished for its soothing effects.

"It's one of the reasons people drink tea," says Dr. Jack F. Bukowski, a scientist with the Nutritional Science Research Institute, an industry-based nonprofit organization that studies nutritional supplements. "The combination of the caffeine and the L-theanine gives people the same amount of energy as caffeine alone but less of a jittery-ness."

That may be true for a cup of tea. But much less is known about the benefits of L-theanine when it's extracted from tea and packed into pills or blended into beverages at quadruple the dose.

"We've gotten that wrong before," says Lenore Arab, a professor of medicine at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. "We've learned so often that we make a mistake if we pull a substance out and take it in a supplement. But L-theanine is an interesting substance."

The studies done on L-theanine thus far have been small, funded largely by companies with an interest in the product. That's not surprising. Early research on a potential supplement is often done by companies that believe there's a profit to be made. What remains to be seen is whether large-scale studies will back up early findings.

What intrigues researchers thus far is evidence that L-theanine is readily absorbed in large quantities, crosses the blood-brain barrier and gets into the brain fast.

Several studies suggest that the substance stimulates alpha waves in the brain, which are associated with alertness. The brain generates a range of electrical activity that reflects various mental states, such as sleep, daydreaming, agitation or concentration. The alpha waves represent the alert state.

■ In one study, the alpha rhythms of 13 people were monitored with electroencephalography, more commonly called EEG, which records electrical activity in the brain. Participants performed a demanding visual-spatial attention task after being given either 250 milligrams of L-theanine or a placebo.

The study, published last year in the journal Brain Topography, showed L-theanine enhanced the processes responsible for sustaining attention, says John J. Foxe, a neuroscientist at the Nathan Kline Institute for Psychiatric Research in New York who conducted the study.

"In all the studies, theanine had an effect on the alpha rhythm and a small but measurable effect on people's performance," says Foxe, who receives some funding for the L-theanine studies from Unilever, which makes Lipton tea.

■ Another study examined the effects of as few as 50 milligrams of L-theanine—what researchers called a more realistic dietary dose—in 16 healthy people.

The participants underwent EEG while relaxing with their eyes closed. They showed increased alpha-wave activity indicating "a relaxed but alert mental state" compared with 19 other participants who did not receive L-theanine. The study, also funded with a grant from Unilever, was published last year in the Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

■ L-theanine may also protect the brain from some types of damage and help people who have cognitive dysfunction.

A recent analysis of nine studies on stroke and tea consumption found that the more tea people consumed, the greater the reduction in stroke risk. The study, conducted by UCLA's Arab, was published online in February in Stroke: Journal of the American Heart Association.

"The problem with stroke is so much damage can happen so quickly," she says. "It's possible that something in tea is protecting the brain from the damage of stroke."

That's not to say L-theanine is the protective factor, but it has a chemical structure similar to that of glutamate, a cell-damaging substance released during a stroke. Thus, one hypothesis is that L-theanine's presence may block glutamate receptors during a stroke, limiting brain damage.

■ Researchers are also exploring whether the substance could benefit people with mood and neurocognitive disorders.

A study of 60 people with schizophrenia found those taking L-theanine along with antipsychotic medications had fewer emotional and cognitive symptoms compared with patients taking a placebo and antipsychotic medications. The study, by Dr. Michael S. Ritsner of Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, is undergoing review for publication.

Consider GABA

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Amino acid tea?

L-theanine isn't the only substance that is purported to boost concentration. Jones Soda Co. has introduced a drink containing the amino acid gamma-aminobutyric acid that some studies suggest also helps people relax and concentrate by increasing alpha waves in the brain.

The drink, called Jones GABA, is a tea-juice blend containing a GABA supplement. In its natural form, GABA is a brain chemical that is important to central nervous system functions such as mood stability. L-theanine is thought to enhance the presence of GABA.

GABA is popular in Japan as a functional food substance. But, as in the case of L-theanine studies, most of the research on GABA supplementation has been conducted by food manufacturers.

Research suggests children can recover from autism

CHICAGO (AP)—Leo Lytel was diagnosed with autism as a toddler. But by age 9 he had overcome the disorder.

His progress is part of a growing body of research that suggests at least 10 percent of children with autism can "recover" from it—most of them after undergoing years of intensive behavioral therapy.

Skeptics question the phenomenon, but University of Connecticut psychology professor Deborah Fein is among those convinced it's real.

She presented research this week at an autism conference in Chicago that included 20 children who, according to rigorous analysis, got a correct diagnosis but years later were no longer considered autistic.

Among them was Leo, a boy in Washington, D.C., who once made no eye contact, who echoed words said to him and often spun around in circles—all classic autism symptoms. Now he is an articulate, social third-grader. His mother, Jayne Lytel, says his teachers call Leo a leader.

The study, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, involves children ages 9 to 18.

Autism researcher Geraldine Dawson, chief science officer of the advocacy group Autism Speaks, called Fein's research a breakthrough.

"Even though a number of us out in the clinical field have seen kids who appear to recover," it has never been documented as thoroughly as Fein's work, Dawson said.

"We're at a very early stage in terms of understanding" the phenomenon, Dawson said.

Previous studies have suggested between 3 percent and 25 percent of autistic kids recover. Fein says her studies have shown the range is 10 percent to 20 percent.

But even after lots of therapy—often carefully designed educational and social activities with rewards—most autistic children remain autistic.

Recovery is "not a realistic expectation for the majority of kids," but parents should know it can happen, Fein said.

Doubters say "either they really weren't autistic to begin with ... or they're still socially odd and obsessive, but they don't exactly meet criteria" for autism, she said.

Fein said the children in her study "really were" autistic and now they're "really not."

University of Michigan autism expert Catherine Lord said she also has seen autistic patients who recover. Most had parents who spent long hours working with them on behavior improvement.

But, Lord added, "I don't think we can predict who this will happen for." And she does not think it's possible to make it happen.

The children in Fein's study, which is still ongoing, were diagnosed by an autism specialist before age 5 but no longer meet diagnostic criteria for autism. The initial diagnoses were verified through early medical records.

Because the phenomenon is so rare, Fein is still seeking children to help bolster evidence on what traits formerly autistic kids may have in common. Her team is also comparing these children with autistic and non-autistic kids.

So far, the "recovered" kids "are turning out very normal" on neuropsychological exams and verbal and nonverbal tests, she said.

Life & Style

Police, 50 Cent see house fire probe differently

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (AP)—Investigators said no one has been cleared in a fire that destroyed 50 Cent's Long Island mansion, despite the rapper's claim that he is not a suspect.

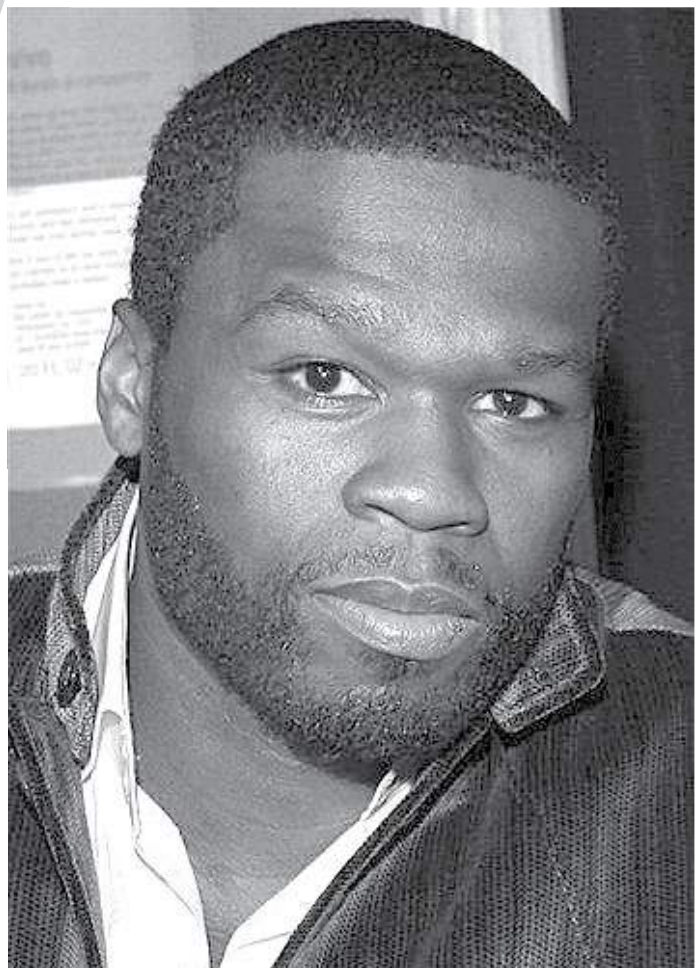
The rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, said in a statement posted on his Web site, Thisis50.com, that he has been told he isn't suspected.

"The police department and insurance investigators ruled that there is absolutely no proof or evidence suggesting that Curtis Jackson or any affiliated parties were involved," the rapper's statement said. "Curtis Jackson has just been cleared of all the accusations. The investigation will continue until the guilty party is found."

But Detective Thomas Wieland of the Suffolk County police said, "That fire is still under investigation. It hasn't been closed either way." No one has ever publicly been named a suspect.

Keesha Johnson, a spokeswoman for 50 Cent, said in a statement that "he was paid a settlement by the insurer for the house," which she interpreted to mean he had been cleared of suspicion. She declined to elaborate on the amount of the settlement or which insurance company was involved.

Dix Hills Fire Chief Larry Feld told The Associated Press this week that he sticks by his determination that the fire's origins were suspicious.



In this Jan. 17, 2009 file photo, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson poses before hosting a screening of the documentary film "Two Turntables and a Microphone" during the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

AP

The fast-moving fire destroyed the $1.4 million mansion in Dix Hills owned by 50 Cent on May 30, 2008. The rapper's ex-girlfriend and their 10-year-old son were among six people who escaped the blaze by jumping off a rear roof.

The rapper was in Louisiana filming a movie at the time, but his ex-girlfriend immediately blamed him for the fire. The former couple have a tumultuous relationship and have even gone to court.

Just months before the fire, a judge ruled that the girlfriend, Shaniqua Tompkins, had to vacate the house. She was still living there at the time of the fire because the case was being appealed.

Andy Samberg hosts special on SNL short films

NEW YORK (AP)—Sometimes the memorable moments on "Saturday Night Live' aren't live.

From Mr. Bill to "Lazy Sunday," the late-night show has occasionally presented short films, and is collecting many of the best for a two-hour prime-time special airing May 17 at 9 p.m. EDT. Andy Samberg is the host.

For a program that has sliced and diced material for all manner of prime-time compilations, it's the first time one is being devoted specifically to the short films.

"It's great to be able to show all these great ones from the past to a generation that is not familiar with them," Samberg said. "For me to do hosting segments and be able to (introduce) `Synchronized Swimmers,' this is not just something that influenced me heavily but influenced everybody in comedy."

That film featuring Martin Short's water acrobatics was directed by Christopher Guest. Samberg also remembers Eddie Murphy's short film, "White Like Me," where the actor impersonated a white man.

AP

In this March 17, 2009 file photo, Andy Samberg arrives at the premiere of "I Love You, Man" in Los Angeles.

"When I was a kid and saw that, my brain exploded," Samberg said. "It was like the greatest thing I'd ever seen in my life."

Robert Smigel's "TV Funhouse" was a frequent "SNL" feature, and the 2007 film featuring Justin Timberlake and a gift box won an Emmy Award.

'Idol' Kris Allen returns to Ark. hometown, parade

CONWAY, Ark. (AP)—Kris Allen has brought a little bit of rock back to his Arkansas hometown.

The 23-year-old "American Idol" finalist came home on Friday, when an estimated crowd of more than 20,000 packed an area of downtown Conway, about 20 miles north of Little Rock, to hear him belt out songs such as Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror."

Allen appeared a little overwhelmed by the swooning fans, telling them: "You guys are crazy."

The concert was the last big public event on Allen's schedule Friday, which included performances in Little Rock, at the University of Central Arkansas and a parade in his honor just before the Conway show.

All this is for Allen, who's competing for the "Idol" crown and a record contract against Danny Gokey of Milwaukee and Adam Lambert of San Diego when the Fox TV singing contest finale airs May 20.

AP

American Idol finalist and Conway, Ark., resident, Kris Allen, speaks to a crowd of fans during his performance, Friday, May 8, 2009 in Little Rock, Ark.

In Conway, support for the hometown hero is clear. Messages cheering for Allen popped up everywhere—in windows of salons to a bail bonds office.

VH1, Logo among winners at GLAAD Media Awards

AP

In this Saturday, April 18, 2009 file photo, comedienne Kathy Griffin arrives at the 20th Annual GLAAD Media Awards in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Laverne Cox isn't on the road with Sean Combs, but the outspoken transgender person has picked up an outstanding reality show trophy at the 20th annual GLAAD Media Awards.

Cox was a contestant on VH1's "I Want to Work for Diddy," which tied with the Logo transgender dating series "Transamerican Love Story" for the award presented by the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation.

Other winners at the Saturday ceremony included Logo's "East Side Story" for outstanding television movie and PBS' "In the Life" for outstanding TV journalism. "General Hospital: Night Shift" actor Chad Allen received the Davidson/Valentini Award, which is named after Craig Davidson, GLAAD's first executive director, and his partner Michael Valentini.

"Milk" screenwriter Dustin Lance Black and "Pursuit of Equality" filmmakers Geoff Callan and Mike Shaw were also recognized. Previously announced GLAAD winners included "Milk" for outstanding film, "Desperate Housewives" for outstanding comedy series, "As the World Turns" for outstanding daily drama and comedian Kathy Griffin for the Vanguard Award.

Just call her 'Dr. Dolly': Parton receives Ph.D.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Award-winning entertainer, businesswoman and education advocate Dolly Parton has a new title.

AP

In this image released by the University of Tennessee, Dolly Parton receives an honorary doctorate of humane and musical letters Friday, May 8, 2009, at commencement exercises in Knoxville, Tenn.

"Just think, I am Dr. Dolly!" she said Friday after receiving an honorary doctorate of humane and musical letters from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

Always joking about her buxom figure, she added, "So when people say something about 'Double-D,' they will be thinking of something entirely different."

The audience of 1,069 new graduates from the College of Arts and Sciences roared with laughter and gave Parton a standing ovation.

Parton, a Tennessee native who is the fourth of 12 children from a poor Appalachian family, is well-known for her philanthropic work. Her Imagination Library sends a book to about 500,000 children each month from birth until they start school.

Hollywood writer John Furia Jr. dies at age 79

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Prolific screen and television writer John Furia Jr., who penned popular series including "Bonanza," "The Waltons" and "Hawaii Five-O" among many others, has died. He was 79.

The Writers Guild of America West disclosed Furia's death in a statement Friday. The cause and exact time of his death could not immediately be determined.

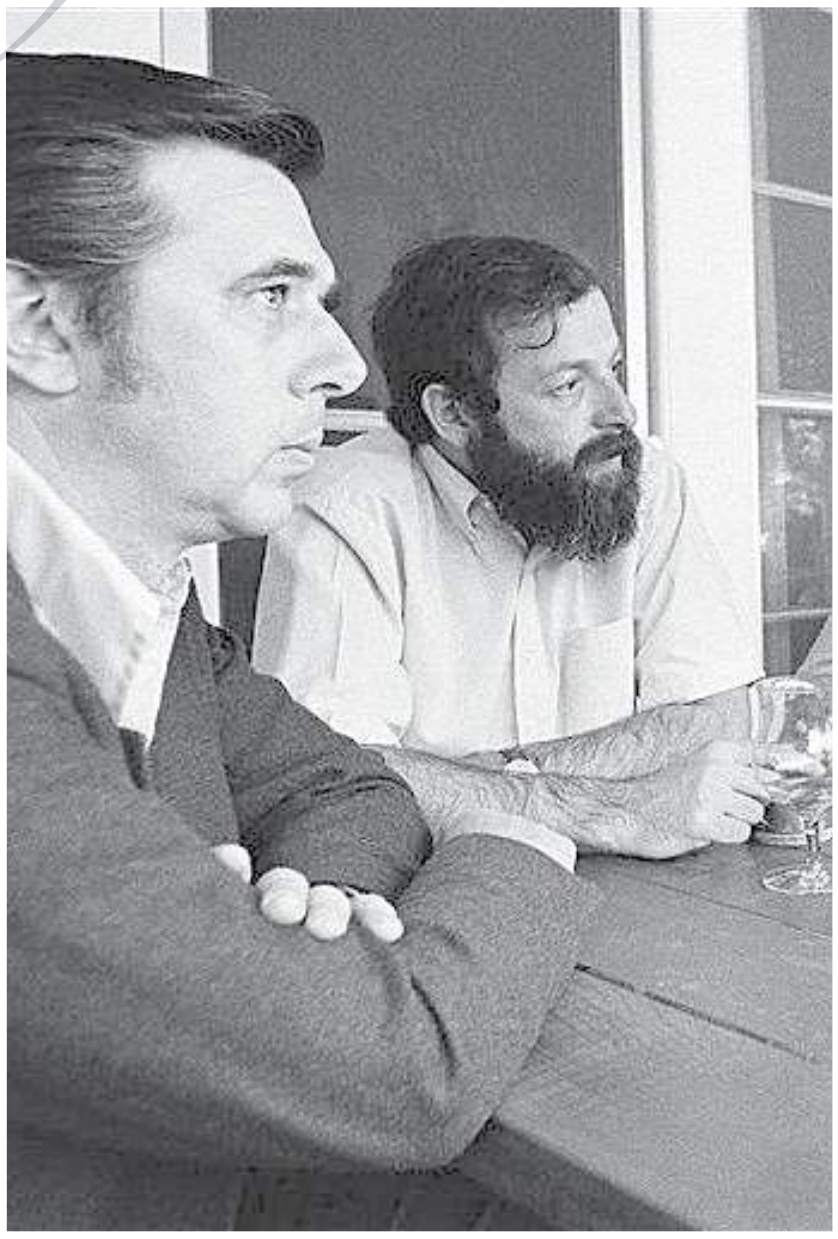
Furia, a former president of the WGAW, was a longtime advocate for Hollywood writers. He was also a founding chairman of the Writing for Screen and Television Division at the University of Southern California's film school and was a full professor there teaching screen and television writing.

"John's character and dignity touched and influenced generations of writers from the founders of the Guild itself to the newest of student-associates," said WGAW President Patric M. Verrone in a statement. "For those of us who relied on his knowledge and his counsel, John was more than an eminence grise; he was pure eminence."

Born in 1929, Furia started his entertainment career singing with dance bands in New York City, but he soon discovered the fledgling television industry. He moved to California where he became one of Hollywood's most productive dramatists, working for both major studios and networks.

He wrote for series such as "Bonanza," "The Twilight Zone," "Dr. Kildare," "Bob Hope Presents the Chrysler Theatre," "Hawaii Five-O," "The Waltons" and "Kung Fu," as well as wrote or produced numerous movies-of-the-week.

Furia's screen credits include "The Singing Nun" starring Debbie Reynolds and Greer Garson, in addition to executive producing films in Mexico, France, Canada, Spain, Croatia and Kenya.



AP

In this March 28, 1972 photo, award-winning writers for television and films John Furia, Jr., left, and David W. Rintels meet in Los Angeles, to discuss censorship.

"John had an old-world dignity about him that seems in such short supply in our world today," Jack Epps, Jr., chair of USC's School of Cinematic Arts Writing for Screen and Television Division, said in a statement.

HBO series details Alzheimer's pain, progress

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Maria Shriver said her role in a major HBO documentary series on Alzheimer's stems from the professional and the intensely personal.

"I approached this project as a child of Alzheimer's," she said, a reference to her father, Sargent Shriver, who was diagnosed in 2003 with the fearsome disease that causes deepening, irreversible dementia.

Her work on the four-part "The Alzheimer's Project" also reflects her vantage point as a journalist and a citizen who wants others to get involved in overcoming Alzheimer's, she said.

"It's going to take all of us as a nation to get involved in finding a cure for this," said Shriver, a series executive producer and host of one of the programs.

There's reason for hope, according to the documentary. In fact, "The Alzheimer's Project" was a result of the progress being made toward treating and possibly preventing the brain disorder, said series producer John Hoffman.

After HBO's similarly ambitious project "Addiction," produced in cooperation with the National Institutes of Health, the cable channel wanted to continue its relationship with the agency, Hoffman said.

The search for the next topic focused on "where science has advanced and the public is unaware of these gains in knowledge," said Hoffman.

Alzheimer's fit that profile, he said. The disease also is among the most-feared in the nation, affecting at least 5 million Americans and expected to hit millions more as the population ages, Hoffman said.

But scientists are beginning to crack the disease's code, according to the HBO project, which carefully—and without hype—documents advances against the disease.

The series, beginning Sunday and airing over three nights, also focuses on the emotional toll Alzheimer's takes on its sufferers and those close to them.

It open with "The Memory Loss Tapes," an intimate look at seven people living with Alzheimer's. The two-part "Momentum in Science," airing Monday and Tuesday, explores research advances with the scientists and physicians leading the way.

Also airing Monday is "Grandpa, Do You Know Who I Am?" with Shriver, which gives voice to the children and grandchildren of Alzheimer's patients. Tuesday's "Caregivers" details the hard work and rewards of those in the disease's inner circle.

Besides being featured on all HBO channels and HBO On Demand, the series will stream free on hbo.com. There's also a companion book, "The Alzheimer's Project: Momentum in Science," and a Web site.

Executive producer Sheila Nevins recognizes that some viewers might be more interested in the science while others are drawn to the personal accounts.

"We don't want people to see one part and think that's the whole story. Every part in contingent on the other," Nevins said. "The hope is that each show answers questions and raises others answered in the multiple programs."

'Wizard of Oz' Munchkin Mickey Carroll dies at 89

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Mickey Carroll, one of the last surviving Munchkins from the 1939 beloved film "The Wizard of Oz," died Thursday. He was 89.

His caretaker, Linda Dodge, said Carroll died in his sleep at her home in suburban Crestwood. He had heart problems and received a pacemaker in February. Until January, he had lived in his own home in suburban Bel-Nor.

Carroll was one of more than 100 adults and children who were recruited to play the movie natives of what author L. Frank Baum called Munchkin Country in his 1900 book "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."

Carroll told The Associated Press in a 2007 interview that the Munchkins made only $125 a week while filming the movie that would become a classic.

"The Wizard of Oz" was Carroll's only movie. When it appeared on television in the 1960s, he found a new career at charitable events, retail events and Oz-related events.

"It's not me; it's the movie," Carroll said. "When they see me, they think of their childhood, and it makes them smile."

Carroll was born Michael Finocchiaro on July 8, 1919, in St. Louis. The son of immigrants, he grew up in an Italian neighborhood on the city's north side with a twin sister and four older siblings. All preceded him in death.

Carroll danced at the Muny Theater in St. Louis when he was in grade school, he once said, and in the 1920s worked in Chicago clubs and on the Orpheum Theater vaudeville circuit.

AP

In this Nov. 20, 2007 file photo, actor Mickey Carroll, the Town Crier with The Munchkins from "The Wizard of Oz," jokes as he arrives, to receive a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame at Grauman's Chinese Theatre, site of "The Wizard of Oz's" 1939 premiere, in Los Angeles.

His gift of gab and comedic timing helped his popularity. He warmed up crowds for President Franklin Roosevelt while campaigning in New York City and served as a crowd-getter in President Harry Truman's whistlestop campaign.

He did Phillip Morris live radio ads and appeared in shows with Mae West. He later did radio shows with George Burns, Gracie Allen, Jack Benny and Al Jolson.

But it was his role as one of the "Oz" Munchkins that defined him.

Carroll played the part of the Munchkinland "Town Crier," marched as a "Munchkin Soldier" and was the candy-striped "Fiddler" who escorted the movie's wide-eyed orphan, Dorothy Gale, played by Judy Garland, down the yellow brick road toward Emerald City.

In the mid-1940s, Carroll returned to St. Louis to run the family business making cemetery monuments. After he sold it in 1996, he filled his time with charity work, Dodge said.

Miss Calif. pageant to address contract violations

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Miss California USA pageant says its co-directors plan to address whether current title holder Carrie Prejean will hold onto her crown amid allegations of contract violations.

Keith Lewis said Friday that he and fellow co-director Shanna Moakler will make their case public Monday. He says they and Prejean's representatives are close to a resolution.

The state pageant is investigating whether the 21-year-old old violated her contract by making public appearances with groups opposed to same-sex marriage and by failing to reveal that she had posed in her underwear as a teenager.

Lewis says Miss USA contest owner Donald Trump will make the decision on whether to disqualify Prejean. She was named first runner-up in the Miss USA pageant on April 19.

AP

In this photo taken on Sept. 14, 2008, Miss California Carrie Prejean is shown standing next to Olympic swimmer Michael Phelps, rear with white cap, at the Browns versus the Steelers game at Cleveland Browns Stadium in Cleveland, Ohio.

'Star Trek' boldly goes to $31M at box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Star Trek" has gone to warp speed at the box office with $31 million in domestic ticket sales after just over a day in theaters.

Distributor Paramount said "Star Trek" took in $24 million Friday, plus $7 million during preview screenings Thursday night.

Paramount estimates that by the end of the weekend the movie will be near or over $70 million in ticket sales.

That puts the movie light years ahead of the previous 10 "Trek" movies.

The best opening weekend ever for the franchise was $30.7 million for 1996's "Star Trek: First Contact." According to inflation-adjusted numbers compiled by Hollywood.com, that translates to $51.2 million in today's dollars.

Nathan Clukey, left, and Edwin Roque-Rivera talk while waiting in line to see the first public showing of "Star Trek" in IMAX at Universal CityWalk in Los Angeles on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

AP

Hugh Jackman to launch 'Wolverine' in Mexico

NEW YORK (AP)—Hugh Jackman has been cleared to visit Mexico. Film distributor 20th Century Fox says the actor will help launch "X-Men Origins: Wolverine" in Mexico City on May 26. Last week, Jackman's scheduled appearance there was canceled due to swine flu concerns.

The Mexico premiere will be held at the National Auditorium. According to Jackman's Twitter page, the "Wolverine" star intends "to provide a moment of fun escapism and a treat for some of the loyal fans of the comic."

Movie theaters across Mexico reopened Thursday after a five-day shutdown of businesses, schools and other venues. Mexico announced its 45th death and 159 more cases Friday.

Actor Hugh Jackman greets fans after a press conference at the Forte de Copacabana, back dropped by the Sugar Loaf mountain in Rio de Janeiro, Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

AP

Funny man Fallon a college graduate after 15 years

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—He's a comic, actor, "Saturday Night Live" veteran and "Late Night" talk show host.

Add one more thing to Jimmy Fallon's resume: College graduate. Fallon, 34, finally got his bachelor's degree Saturday, 14 years after he left an upstate New York college to pursue his comedy career.

The television and film star picked up his degree in communications and spoke to graduates at Saturday's College of Saint Rose commencement.

"There's always going to be someone out there like that movie critic, who doesn't believe in you or who thinks your head is too big or you're not smart enough or whatever," Fallon told the graduates. "But those are the people you need to ignore, and those are the times you need to just keep doing what you love doing."

Fallon was a Saint Rose student from 1992 through 1995, studying computer science before switching to communications. In the second half of his senior year, he left the Albany college to pursue a show business career. He was one semester short of graduating.

He earned his degree after presenting college officials with a portfolio of his work in TV and film, which satisfied remaining credits.

More than 800 students attended the ceremony and received degrees from the school. There are more than 28,000 Saint Rose alumni.

Amy Winehouse cuts short comeback gig in Caribbean

LONDON (AP)—Amy Winehouse was forced to cut short a comeback gig in St. Lucia because of heavy rain.

AP

In this Sunday, Aug. 17, 2008, file photo, British singer, Amy Winehouse performs at the V Festival, near Chelmsford, England.

Winehouse spokesman Chris Goodman said in a statement Saturday that the singer abandoned her performance Friday at the St. Lucia Jazz Festival.

He says heavy rain pounded the stage on the Caribbean island, causing a lighting rig to fail and disrupting sound equipment.

The gig was the troubled British singer's first performance of 2009.

Goodman says that Winehouse attempted to continue her performance despite the storm, but was forced to stop.

He says the singer was disappointed, as she'd hoped to repay people in St. Lucia for their hospitality.

Winehouse has been staying on the island for several months.

Grandkids become the losers in parents' war with in-laws

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I had a falling-out with his parents last October. We sent them an e-mail in December to let them know we have no desire to keep our children—ages 5 and 6—from them. We feel it is important that they have a good relationship with their grandparents even though we don't.

My in-laws never responded and have made no attempt to see the children. They do send cards to them for holidays and birthdays, however.

While we accept that they want nothing to do with us, the kids keep asking why they don't get to see Nana and Papa anymore. We tell them that Nana and Papa love them very much, but are very busy. My in-laws live just 10 minutes away.

Abby, how do I continue to explain this situation to my children? They have done nothing wrong, and my heart breaks for them.

DON'T BLAME THE KIDS

DEAR DON'T: You are behaving as if the ball is now in your in-laws' court. Continue telling your children that their grandparents love them, and have them pick up the phone and call Nana and Papa. If your in-laws are screening their calls and don't answer, have the children leave a message saying they miss their grandparents and would like to see them. Then the ball will be in their court.

DEAR ABBY: My son will graduate in June from a college in the Northeast. We live way down south. I am sending a few invitations to announce the occasion. No one is expected to make the trip for the event.

If people send only congratulatory cards, is a thank-you in order if no gifts are received?

GRAD'S MOM

DEAR MOM: You should not send an invitation to anyone you know will not attend the graduation ceremony. To do so would seem like a bid for a gift. Instead, send a graduation announcement. According to "Emily Post's Etiquette": "Recipients of any kind of announcement are not expected to give gifts, though they may want to send a congratulatory note or card."

When someone does something nice for someone else, it deserves to be acknowledged. If your son receives a card congratulating him on his graduation, he should take a moment and drop the sender a note saying, "Thank you for remembering me at this special time in my life."

DEAR ABBY: I am a single woman in my mid-20s and am in the process of buying my first home. It is a great house and not necessarily a typical "starter" home.

My issue is many friends and acquaintances keep asking me how much I am purchasing the home for and how can I afford it. I was raised that to ask about someone's financial situation is rude and intrusive. Am I right, or has this become acceptable?

VEXED IN TEXAS

DEAR VEXED: It's not surprising that someone would be curious. However, you are right. It IS bad manners to ask people what they paid for something. That's why you are perfectly within your rights to say that you would prefer not to answer and the question makes you uncomfortable.

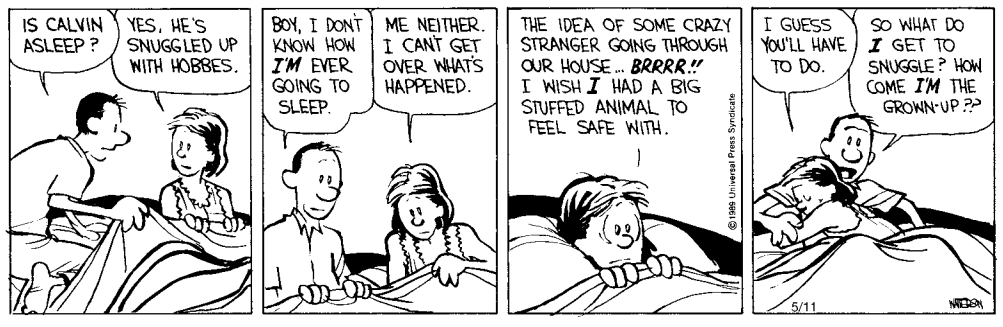
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

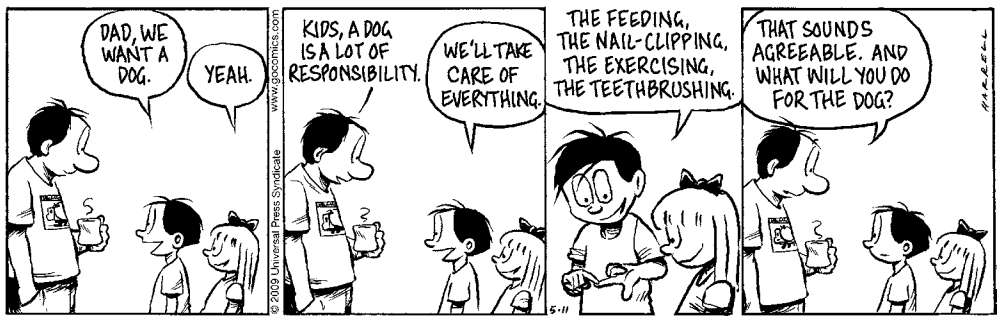

IS CALVIN ASLEEP?
YES, HE'S SNUGGLED UP WITH HOBBES.
BOY, I DON'T KNOW HOW I'M EVER GOING TO SLEEP.
ME NEITHER. I CAN'T GET OVER WHAT'S HAPPENED.
THE IDEA OF SOME CRAZY STRANGER GOING THROUGH OUR HOUSE... BRRRR.!! I WISH I HAD A BIG STUFFED ANIMAL TO FEEL SAFE WITH.
© 1995 Universal Press Syndicate
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO DO.
SO WHAT DO I GET TO SNUGGLE? HOW COME I'M THE GROWN-UP?
5/11

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD, WE WANT A DOG.
YEAH.
KIDS, A DOG IS A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITY.
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
THE FEEDING, THE NAIL-CLIPPING, THE EXERCISING, THE TEETHBRUSHING.
THAT SOUNDS AGREEABLE. AND WHAT WILL YOU DO FOR THE DOG?
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.gocomics.com
5-11

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

HEY, GINA, CAN I BORROW YOUR LADDER? THERE'S SOMETHING STUCK UP ON MY ROOF.
SORRY, ENO. I LOANED IT TO MY MOM.
5-11-09
CAN IT WAIT A COUPLE OF WEEKS?
WELL, YEAH. I GUESS SO. THANKS ANYWAY.
GLENN McCOY
Z

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Annie Lennox's, "No More 'I Love —' "
5 Shade provider
8 Grate
12 Ordinate counterpart
14 "Do — others ..."
15 Labyrinth beast
16 Ollie's pal
17 Little, in Paris
18 Unisex top
20 PC peripheral
23 Folder contents
24 Angered
25 Stately dances
28 "— Miserables"
29 Pugilist
30 Discoverer's cry
32 Mosque tower
34 Culture medium
35 — and crafts
36 SALT subject
37 Elk
40 Crucial
41 Mideast airline
42 Member of the clergy
47 Skin opening
48 Eternally
49 Prepared to drive
50 Reuben bread
51 Impale

DOWN
1 Sweet potato
2 Kyoto cummerbund
3 Sailors' org.
4 Evaluated by eyeing
5 Jacob's brother
6 Baton Rouge sch.
7 Strict disciplinarian
8 Potential frat member
9 Con
10 Celeb
11 Bridge, in Brest
13 Particular
19 Speak sloppily
20 Wire measure
21 Utah city
22 Lucy's partner
23 Repairs
25 Bergen's dummy Snerd
26 Takeout request
27 Phony
29 Homer's imp son
31 Sphere
33 Caught red-handed
34 Bottomless pits
36 Estate recipient
37 Sobbed
38 Lotion additive
39 Rid of rind
40 Patella site
43 Wall climber
44 Youngster
45 Historic time
46 CSA soldier

Solution time: 24 mins.

O	R	S	O	■	L	A	C	E	■	O	R	B
B	A	L	M	■	E	R	O	S	■	N	E	O
E	G	A	N	■	S	I	B	S	■	Y	E	N
Y	E	T	I	■	S	A	W	■	A	X	L	E
■	■	■	S	T	E	■	E	L	L	■	■	■
A	P	A	C	H	E	■	B	A	L	L	A	D
R	A	D	I	O	■	■	S	K	A	T	E	■
E	L	D	E	S	T	■	S	I	N	G	E	R
■	■	■	N	E	W	■	T	K	O	■	■	■
Z	E	S	T	■	I	C	E	■	W	A	R	E
E	M	U	■	G	N	A	W	■	I	R	I	S
T	I	N	■	O	G	R	E	■	N	E	T	S
A	R	K	■	D	E	E	D	■	G	A	Z	E

Saturday's answer 5-11

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15								■	16			
■	■	■	17			■	18	19				
20	21	22			■	23				■	■	■
24				■	25					26	27	■
28			■	29					■	30		31
■	32		33					■	34			
■	■	■	35				■	36				
37	38	39				■	40			■	■	■
41				■	42	43				44	45	46
47				■	48							
49				■	50			■	51			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Holly Valance, 26; Hanna Verboom, 26; Katie Wagner, 45; Eric Burdon, 68

Happy Birthday: Keep a clear head. If you let anyone distract you or take over, you will pay the price. Taking on responsibilities may seem daunting but, in the end, it will prove to others you can handle anything that comes your way. Deal with your financial situation head on. Less can help make life simpler. Your numbers are 8, 11, 14, 20, 25, 37, 47

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Not participating in life and the things you do well is not acceptable. Emotional issues and contracts may cloud your vision but, once you get past life's little setbacks, you will realize all the ways there are to fill any void in your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Someone you are involved with contractually or with whom you are working cannot be relied on or trusted. Pull in the people you know can help you and you will save the day and impress someone important. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Do something totally out of the ordinary. You can please and appease the people you have to deal with and make headway with a partnership. Keep your emotions intact and avoid saying something you may regret later. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A power play may be the only way to resolve an important issue but accept and move ahead with changes that you can do nothing about. Once you make the necessary alterations in your life, you can let the past go and feel much better about the future. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You got it happening, so don't delay. Before you know it, you'll be taking on a challenge that will stimulate you, motivate you and get you running at twice the speed. A little emotional activity will do your heart good. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You can renovate, redecorate or even make a move from one location to another with great success. Don't rely on someone you work with to give you a fair deal or to back you in a time of crisis. Fend for yourself. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You are in a star position and can wiggle your way in and out of anything you choose. Use your intelligence to captivate someone's attention and you will have everyone eating out of your hand. A passionate encounter may take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let cheapness hold you hostage. You have to spend money to make money, so bite the bullet and believe in what you are trying to produce. Don't let your emotions interfere with important changes. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone who has ulterior motives will tempt you. Before you take the bait, consider the consequences. The price may be too high and the loss too great. An unpredictable situation will develop. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Someone you care for will not see things your way. Before you rule out any possibilities, check your own assets and see if you can fit offers into your current projects. It may turn into a win-win situation. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll have an opportunity to get ahead or change the way you earn your living. Someone you deal with will have a greater interest in you than you realize. Open your eyes; opportunity awaits you. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Anything you are uncertain about should be put on the backburner. You have enough to contend with for now and, if you don't take care of pending business, you will end up at a loss. Follow your heart, your dreams and your ambition. ✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a sensitive, loyal friend and partner. You have insight and a unique way of handling people and problems.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9		5		8				
	3	1	5	9		8	4	6
	6					2		
			2			3	8	
		2				5		
	4	6			5			
		3					9	
8	7	9		2	4	6	3	
				3		7		1

Difficulty Level ★ 5/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

7	6	1	9	8	2	4	3	5
8	3	5	4	7	1	6	9	2
4	2	9	3	5	6	1	8	7
9	1	8	5	4	7	3	2	6
6	5	2	8	1	3	9	7	4
3	7	4	6	2	9	8	5	1
2	4	7	1	9	8	5	6	3
5	9	6	7	3	4	2	1	8
1	8	3	2	6	5	7	4	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/09

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STROBE LIGHTS **Solution: 7 letters**

I	E	I	S	W	I	T	C	H	O	E	D	I	V	T
P	L	L	O	S	C	I	E	N	T	I	F	I	C	A
O	E	L	E	S	R	A	O	N	P	F	S	N	E	E
W	G	U	U	C	T	I	P	A	E	U	L	R	E	P
E	F	S	U	M	T	T	R	A	A	R	I	A	S	E
R	S	I	P	O	I	R	A	L	C	W	G	W	A	R
T	T	O	M	E	E	N	I	W	E	I	H	Y	E	O
N	O	N	E	X	C	L	A	C	O	V	T	R	L	T
E	P	T	Y	L	I	T	N	T	V	L	T	O	E	A
M	U	U	U	R	V	R	R	O	I	A	I	M	R	T
A	L	B	C	(E)	E	S	L	U	E	O	R	K	H	I
L	S	E	W	T	(D)	T	C	H	M	A	N	G	T	O
I	E	O	T	S	A	(O)	T	E	L	S	I	R	E	N
F	L	A	N	G	I	S	(M)	A	N	R	O	L	O	C
S	P	E	E	D	P	M	A	L	B	E	A	C	O	N

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Last Saturday's Answer: Receptacle

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TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Appearing for Petitioner
BENIGNO O. SABLAN

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF GAUDENCIA SABLAN, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0136 NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: INTERESTED CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:

Notice is hereby given that BENIGNO O. SABLAN, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Gaudencia Sablan, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The Attorney of record is Danilo T. Aguilar, Esq., P.O. Box 505301, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for June 9, 2009, at the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 1:30 pm. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having any claims against the estate, or against the deceased should file their claims with the Clerk of Court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

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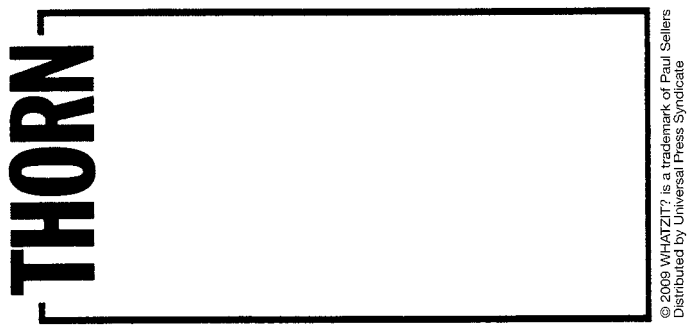
WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



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Hall of Fame coach Chuck Daly dies

DETROIT (AP)—The Detroit Pistons made plenty of enemies while winning titles and throwing blows two decades ago. Chuck Daly, though, was universally admired for his class and coaching acumen.

"I never understood how a great man and nice guy coached the Bad Boys," Charles Barkley said.

Daly died Saturday morning at 78 in Jupiter, Fla., with his family by his side, the Pistons said. The team announced in March he was being treated for pancreatic cancer.

The Hall of Fame coach led the Dream Team to the Olympic gold medal in 1992 after winning back-to-back NBA championships in Detroit.

Daly was renowned for his ability to create harmony out of diverse personalities at all levels of the game, whether they were Ivy Leaguers at Pennsylvania, Dream Teamers Michael Jordan and Barkley, or Pistons as dissimilar as Dennis Rodman and Joe Dumars.

"It's a players' league. They allow you to coach them or they don't," Daly once said. "Once they stop allowing you to coach, you're on your way out."

Daly was voted one of the 10 greatest coaches of the NBA's first half-century in 1996, two years after being inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. He was the first coach to win both NBA and Olympic titles.

Daly had a career regular-season record of 638-437 in 13 NBA seasons. In 12 playoff appearances, his teams went 75-51. He left Detroit as the Pistons' leader in regular-season and playoff victories.

NBA commissioner David Stern said the "void left by his death will never be filled."

"Chuck did much more than coach basketball games," he said in a statement. "He positively impacted everyone he met, both personally and professionally, and his love of people and the game of basketball helped develop the next generation of coaches."

Daly had a golden touch at the Barcelona Games with the likes of Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and Jordan, using a different lineup every game.

"Chuck was a great leader," Jordan said. "I only wish I could have played for him outside of the Dream Team."

Added Bird: "He handled that team and its talent as well as anybody could. He treated us all with respect and had us all vying for the same goal."

Daly humbled the NBA superstars by coaching a group of college players to victory in a controlled scrimmage weeks before the Olympics.

"I was the happiest man in the gym," Daly said.

In Barcelona—a team also bolstered by Patrick Ewing, Scottie Pippen, David Robinson, Chris Mullin, Karl Malone and John Stockton—the Americans scored more than 100 points in each of their eight wins and their victory margin topped 43 points. Daly did not call a timeout during the tournament.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski was an Olympic assistant under Daly.

"For that, I am eternally grateful," he said. "There was no better ambassador for the game of basketball than Chuck Daly."

Daly also made the right moves for the Pistons, who were notorious for their physical play with Bill Laimbeer and Rick Mahorn leading the fight, Rodman making headlines and Hall of Fame guards Isiah Thomas and Dumars lifting the team to titles in 1989 and 1990.

"He did an unbelievable job of taking a bunch of different personalities and molding them into a team," Mahorn said.

Thomas, the former New York Knicks coach and president who now coaches at Florida International University, said Daly's death was an "immeasurable loss for the NBA and the entire basketball world."

"I can't explain in words how much he gave me as a player and a man," he said.

Former Piston John Salley gave Daly the nickname Daddy Rich for his impeccably tailored suits. The National Basketball Coaches' Association created pins with the initials "CD" that many coaches and broadcasters are wearing as it dedicates this postseason to Daly. The organization also established the Chuck Daly Lifetime Achievement Award, which will be given annually.

Despite his success, Daly wasn't part of a Coach of the Year presentation until he handed the trophy to then-Detroit coach Rick Carlisle in 2002.

"This is as close as I've ever been to that thing," Daly said, looking at the Red Auerbach Trophy.

Born July 20, 1930, in St. Marys, Pa., Charles Jerome Daly played college ball at St. Bonaventure and Bloomsburg.

He began coaching in the NBA in 1978 as an assistant under Billy Cunningham in Philadelphia. His first head coaching job was with Cleveland, but he was fired after the Cavaliers went 9-32 the first half of the 1981-82 season.

AP

Detroit Pistons head coach Chuck Daly yells instructions from the sidelines during game four against the Milwaukee Bucks in Milwaukee, May 15, 1989.

In 1983, Daly took over a Detroit team that had never had two straight winning seasons and led the Pistons to nine straight. He persuaded Rodman, Thomas, Dumars, Mahorn and Laimbeer to play as a unit and they responded with championships in 1989 and 1990.

Far from being intimidated by the Pistons' Bad Boys image, Daly saw the upside of it.

"I've also had players who did not care," he said a decade later. "I'd rather have a challenging team."

Los Angeles Lakers coach Phil Jackson went up against Daly while coaching the Jordan-led Chicago Bulls.

"In the heat of those battles, Chuck was always a friend of coaches," Jackson said. "A good guy. He was always in the coaching fraternity and always extended a friendly hand."

After leaving Detroit, Daly coached the New Jersey Nets for two seasons and led them to the playoffs both times.

He left broadcasting to return to the bench in 1997 with the Orlando Magic and coached them two seasons, then retired at 68 because he was weary of travel. Daly joined the Vancouver Grizzlies as a senior adviser in 2000. In retirement, he divided time between homes in Jupiter and suburban Detroit.

The Pistons retired No. 2 in 1997 to honor Daly's two NBA titles.

"Without you, there wouldn't be us," Mahorn told the coach during the ceremony.

Daly is survived by his wife, Terry, daughter Cydney and grandchildren Sebrina and Connor.

The funeral is Wednesday in Tequesta, Fla., at St. Jude Catholic Church. Visitation is Tuesday in nearby Jupiter at Aycock Funeral Home.

Rockets' Yao out for remainder of postseason

HOUSTON (AP)—Yao Ming will miss the rest of the playoffs because of a broken left foot.

The Houston center limped off the court late in the Los Angeles Lakers' 108-94 victory over the Rockets on Friday night. Yao missed Saturday's practice to get treatment and the team said the 7-foot-6 All-Star would be re-evaluated on Sunday.

But the Rockets announced later Saturday night that further examination of Yao's injury revealed a hairline fracture. The Rockets say Yao will need 8-12 weeks to recover, though no surgery is required.

The Rockets and Lakers play Game 4 of their Western Conference semifinal series on Sunday. The Lakers lead the series 2-1.

Yao had 19 points and 14 rebounds in Friday's loss, his sixth straight double-double. But he was noticeably limping by the fourth quarter and finally hobbled off the court in the final minute, with the outcome decided.

Yao has been the focal point of the Rockets' offense since Tracy McGrady had season-ending knee surgery in February, and Houston finished 21-8 without McGrady. Yao has been plagued by serious leg and foot injuries in each of the previous three seasons, but played in 77 games in 2008-09.

His left foot has given him problems before.

Just four games before the end of the 2005-06 regular season, Yao broke the fifth metatarsal in the foot in Utah and missed the playoffs after surgery. In February 2008, Yao sustained a stress fracture in his foot and missed the postseason again, returning in time to play for host China in the Olympics.

After the Rockets' practice on Saturday, Ron Artest said Yao told him that he'd be ready for Game 4. However, coach Rick Adelman prepared his team as if Yao wouldn't be available.

"We have to play to our strengths," Adelman said. "Everybody has to play to their strengths and understand what they can do to help us win. You do it collectively. There's strength in numbers, and that's what we have to understand."

The Rockets went 3-2 without Yao during the regular season and 19-8 without him in 2007-08. A total of 12 players missed 179 games for Houston this season, and the Rockets still managed to go 53-29.

"We've won without people all year long," Adelman said. "It's just one more case. You can't dwell on who's not here. You have to dwell on who is here. These guys truly believe, if we go out and play the way we're capable of playing, we can win a game."

Denver steals one in Dallas

DALLAS (AP)—Carmelo Anthony broke free of a defender trying to foul him and swished a 3-pointer, giving the Denver Nuggets a 106-105 victory over the Dallas Mavericks on Saturday and a 3-0 series lead that has been insurmountable in NBA history.

About two hours after the game ended, the NBA announced that the officials goofed. President of league operations Joel Litvin put out a brief statement saying "the officials missed an intentional foul committed by Antoine Wright on Carmelo Anthony, just prior to Anthony's 3-point basket."

Dallas' last-gasp chance was a high-arching 3 from Dirk Nowitzki that was nowhere close to going in. At the buzzer, the crowd fell silent, the Nuggets began to celebrate and the Mavericks began to gripe.

Chauncey Billups scored 32 points, Anthony 31 and the rest of the Nuggets had 44.

Nowitzki had 33 points and 16 rebounds, and Brandon Bass(notes) scored 14 of his 16 points in the second half for Dallas.

Cavaliers 97, Hawks 82

At Atlanta, LeBron James scored 47 points in his best game yet of these playoffs, leading Cleveland to the brink of its second straight postseason sweep.

Cleveland kept up its dominating run through the playoffs, setting an NBA record with its seventh straight double-figure win to eclipse the mark set by the 2004 Indiana Pacers. The only solace for the Hawks: They stopped Cleveland's streak of 20-point playoff wins at three.

Joe Johnson(notes), who didn't decide until game time that he was healthy enough to play, led the Hawks with 21 points. Josh Smith added 18 and Flip Murray 17.

NBA *admits refs' error that cost Mavericks*

DALLAS (AP)—The NBA admitted officials were wrong when they didn't call an intentional foul the Dallas Mavericks were trying to commit before Denver's Carmelo Anthony made a game-winning 3-pointer Saturday.

Dallas had a two-point lead and a foul to give when Denver inbounded the ball with less than 8 seconds left. Antoine Wright was clearly trying to foul Anthony, and bumped him twice.

But the whistle never blew and Anthony swished a 3-pointer from in front of the Dallas bench with a second left that gave the Nuggets a 106-105 victory and a 3-0 series lead.

"At the end of the Dallas-Denver game this evening, the officials missed an intentional foul committed by Antoine Wright on Carmelo Anthony, just prior to Anthony's three-point basket," Joel Litvin, NBA president of league and basketball operations, said in a statement issued by the league about two hours after the game.

"It's a shame the game had to come down to this, but that's the way it goes in the NBA sometimes," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban said in an e-mail to The Associated Press after the league's statement.

Cuban was visibly upset on the court after the game, but had declined comment while standing just outside the Mavericks' locker room.

In the aftermath of the scandal involving former referee Tim Donaghy, the NBA has begun publicly acknowledging certain officiating mistakes.

Donaghy is serving a prison sentence for betting on games he officiated and taking cash payments from gambling associates for information to help them with bets.

Stult's four-hitter paces Dodgers

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eric Stults pitched a four-hitter for his second career shutout and the Los Angeles Dodgers earned their first win since Manny Ramirez was suspended, beating the San Francisco Giants 8-0 on Saturday.

Juan Pierre was 3-for-5 with two doubles and recorded his first three RBIs since taking over in left field for Ramirez. Juan Castro had three hits and drove in two runs for the defending NL champions, who are 1-2 since their dreadlocked slugger was banished for 50 games by Major League Baseball after testing positive for a banned drug.

Stults (4-1) gave the Dodgers their first complete game of the season, going the distance for the second time in 20 career starts. The 29-year-old lefthander, who was recalled from Triple-A on April 11 to replace the injured Hiroki Kuroda in the rotation, threw 123 pitches in his third start against the Giants this season.

Los Angeles Dodgers' Eric Stults pitches in the first inning against the San Francisco Giants in a baseball game Saturday, May 9, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

Braves 6, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Javier Vazquez pitched neatly into the eighth inning and Yunel Escobar and Brian McCann hit two-run homers for Atlanta.

Vazquez (3-3) allowed two runs and four hits, striking out seven in 7 2-3 innings. He also helped himself with a double that started a three-run rally in the fifth.

Chase Utley hit his 10th homer and Raul Ibanez also went deep for the Phillies, who got another poor performance from a starting pitcher. Joe Blanton (1-3) gave up six runs and eight hits in eight innings.

Blanton's shaky start was the latest in a slew of rough outings for a rotation that played a vital role in helping the Phillies win the World Series last season. Philadelphia's starters are 7-10 with a 6.47 ERA.

Astros 5, Padres 4

At Houston, Miguel Tejada's infielder bouncer drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, and the Houston Astros rallied to beat the San Diego Padres.

Carlos Lee had driven in the tying run with a single, sending Hunter Pence to third, and Tejada's slow bouncer allowed him to score moments later.

LaTroy Hawkins (1-0) gave up a two-run double that left the Astros trailing 4-3 in the eighth, but wound up with the win after the Houston offense bailed him out.

Reds 8, Cardinals 3

At Cincinnati, Aaron Harang pitched seven innings and had a bases-loaded single during Cincinnati's decisive rally, a birthday bash that gave the Reds a victory over the St. Louis Cardinals and their best record in three years.

Harang (3-3) had many good moments on his 31st birthday, none better than the awkward swing that produced his first hit of the season with the bases loaded in the sixth inning. Cincinnati sent nine batters to the plate for five runs off Kyle Lohse (3-2) in the inning, blowing open a tie game.

With their third straight win, the Reds moved four games over .500 (17-13) for the first time since 2006.

Rays 14, Red Sox 5

At Boston, Evan Longoria homered and drove in five runs to raise his major league-leading total to 44 RBIs, leading the Tampa Bay Rays to a win over the Boston Red Sox.

Pat Burrell, Carlos Pena, Ben Zobrist and Akinori Iwamura each drove in two runs for Tampa Bay, which has won seven of 10.

Longoria's homer off Jon Lester (2-3) hit the top of the center-field wall and bounced over after Carl Crawford walked, making it 2-0 three batters into the game.

Blue Jays 6, Athletics 4

At Oakland, Calif., Brian Tallet yielded two hits over seven innings, Lyle Overbay homered and the Blue Jays avoided their first three-game skid of the season.

Adam Lind had two run-scoring hits for the Blue Jays, whose offense shook a two-game slump with 15 hits in the AL East co-leaders' ninth victory in their last 11 meetings with the A's.

Jason Giambi homered twice for Oakland, which has lost six of nine. Sean Gallagher (1-1) got the loss after allowing 10 hits and four runs in the first five innings.

Tallet (2-1) struck out seven in his fifth outing as an injury replacement in Toronto's rotation. The 31-year-old reliever had made just six career starts before this season.

Tigers 4, Indians 0

At Cleveland, Edwin Jackson and two Detroit Tigers relievers extended Cleveland's scoreless streak to 19 innings with a win over the Indians.

The Indians have not scored since the eighth inning of a 13-3 loss Thursday in Boston. Cleveland got only two hits Friday night off Tigers right-hander Justin Verlander in a 1-0 loss.

Jackson (2-2) struck out seven and allowed only five hits and one walk over seven innings.

Joel Zumaya and Fernando Rodney each worked one inning to complete the seven-hit shutout.

Cleveland starter Fausto Carmona (1-4) gave up two runs and four hits over 6 2-3 innings, walking six and striking out four.

Twins 9, Mariners 6

At Minneapolis, Joe Mauer and Justin Morneau hit back-to-back homers for the second straight night and Minnesota roughed up Seattle ace Felix Hernandez in a victory over the Mariners.

Mauer had two hits and three RBIs and Michael Cuddyer added a 427-foot, three-run homer off Sean White in the fifth inning. Joe Nathan picked up his fifth save in six chances.

Hernandez (4-2) gave up six runs—five earned—and six hits in four innings for the Mariners, who have lost six in a row.

White Sox 3, Rangers 2

At Chicago, Carlos Quentin doubled twice and scored the go-ahead run in the eighth inning on Paul Konerko's sacrifice to give the Chicago White Sox a win over the Texas Rangers.

Texas starter Kevin Millwood gave up a leadoff single to Chris Getz in the eighth and hit Quentin on a 1-2 pitch. Dye chased Millwood (3-3) with a single to load the bases with no outs.

One out later, Konerko hit a flyball to center off Texas reliever Darren O'Day.

Orioles 12, Yankees 5

At Baltimore, Aubrey Huff hit a three-run homer off Phil Hughes during an eight-run second inning, and the Baltimore Orioles beat the New York Yankees in a game that featured seven home runs.

Playing in his second game back from hip surgery, New York third baseman Alex Rodriguez went 0 for 3 with a walk.

The Orioles sent 13 batters to the plate in the second, their most productive inning of the season. Luke Scott and Gregg Zaun each had two of Baltimore's eight hits, and the Yankees fueled the onslaught with an error, a wild pitch and a hit batter.

Cejka builds 5-shot lead over Woods

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Alex Cejka could see chaos all around him at The Players Championship, or at least hear it through the groans of a scorching Saturday at the TPC Sawgrass that delivered so many meltdowns. He was among the few to survive, taking on the flag with an 8-iron on the final hole that set up a 5-foot birdie for an even-par 72 and a five-shot lead, the largest after three rounds in the 36 years of this prestigious event.

Time to exhale? Not quite.

In a tournament full of surprises, the biggest of all might be his date in the final round Sunday: Tiger Woods.

Woods didn't look like a player who should be in contention, not after having to play one shot left-handed from the base of a pine, missing one shot by 40 feet with a wedge in his hand and looking increasing frustrated at birdie chances that slipped away.

But back-to-back birdies, followed by a huge break on the 18th hole, changed his fortunes.

His 2-under 70 turned out to be good enough to move up 20 spots into a six-way tie for second, in the final pairing Sunday with a 38-year-old who has never held a final-round lead on U.S. soil.

"It's going to be tough," Cejka said. "He's the best player. It's going to be a good challenge for me. I know I have a lead, but it's against not only Tiger but against the rest of the field. I've got to play well tomorrow to win here."

Cejka was at 11-under 205 and doesn't seem to be all that intimidated.

He recalled beating Woods the last time they were paired in the final round of a big event—that was the 1996 British Open at Royal Lytham & St. Annes, when Woods was a 20-year-old amateur. Cejka shot 67 to finish 11th; Woods had a 70.

And the Czech-born German is going with a familiar Sunday attire—red shirt and black pants—a tradition for Woods in the final round.

"Hopefully, it works for me, too," Cejka said. "It's nice to watch the best player in the world, but I've got to focus again on my game tomorrow and let him work a little bit."

In Woods' only victory this year since returning from knee surgery, he matched his PGA Tour best with a five-shot comeback against Sean O'Hair in the final pairing at Bay Hill.

Even so, Woods was not alone in his pursuit.

Henrik Stenson was two shots behind until he bogeyed three of the last five holes, nearly chipping into the water on the 16th. He wound up with a 73, and was in the six-way tie for second that included Woods, two-time U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen (71), Jonathan Byrd (71), Ben Crane (72) and Ian Poulter, who didn't make a single birdie on his way to a 75.

Woods got into the final group because he was the first to finish among the group at 6-under 210, and what a finish it was.

He had been struggling all day in temperatures that climbed into the 90s. He had to hit one shot left-handed from the base of a pine, missed his target by 40 feet with a wedge, and looked increasingly frustrated as he missed birdie chances.

Back-to-back birdies got him in range, and a huge break that followed on the 18th kept him there.

He was in the trees again, a few feet from the divot he left the day before when he made a tremendous escape. This time, a 6-iron came out hot and more left than he wanted, racing through the green and tumbling down a bank toward the pond. But a tuft of Bermuda grass grabbed the ball a foot from the water, and Woods managed to save par.

He had no idea where it would lead him.

"You figured some of the guys would shoot 3- or 4-under-par today, but it's just not happening out there," Woods said.

Instead, everyone went the other direction.

■ Poulter took bogeys on two par 5s.

■ David Toms was making a run until he shot 42 on the back nine for a 77.

■ Kevin Na managed only two pars on the back nine for a 40.

The good news for most was that they still had hope.

"I'm still in pretty good shape," Stenson said. "I would have liked to have finished better. That's just the nature of this golf course."

Mother Nature didn't help.

After overnight rain on the eve of the tournament, the TPC Sawgrass has been in an oven set to broil. The putting surfaces are more yellow than green. The fairways are faster than ever. The slightest miss can lead to big trouble.

No one had quite a wild day as Na. He was two strokes behind at the turn, then bogeyed the next two holes and put a tee shot in the water on the par-3 13th and took triple bogey. He got back in the mix with a birdie on the 15th and an eagle on the 16th, only to bogey the last two holes for a 74.

He was in the group at 5-under 211.

"This course, it's crazy," Na said. "You've got the greatest players in the world having trouble shooting par on this golf course. There's a reason we're shooting over par."

Four-way tie for Majors lead

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Jets and Red Sox forced a four-way tie for the lead in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball after notching contrasting wins Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Jets nailed their 10th win against two defeats after slipping past Ol'Aces in an extra inning, 4-3. The loss was Ol'Aces' second in a row, putting them in a tie with the Jets, Red Sox, and Hustlers for the No. 1 spot.

Centerfielder Dalyn Flores scored the winning run for the Jets. Flores led off in the bottom of the seventh inning and singled. The Jets second batter was beaten to first, the next two walked, and the fourth was struck out. The fifth batter was hit by a pitch, allowing Flores to walk to home plate for the winning run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Braves' Ian Rogolifoi struggles to catch the ball, while teammate Jay Kalen gets ready to help at the top of the sixth inning of their game against the Falcons in the Major division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

The Jets forced an extra inning after pitcher Jose Lizama made a two-run single and tied the game at 3-all.

Red Sox 6, Little Lion 1

Red Sox had an easier time getting their 10th victory after hammering Lion Lion, 6-1.

A five-run bottom of the fifth helped Red Sox break the 1-1 deadlock and take the win.

Craig Aguon gave Red Sox their first run, scoring on a Little Lion error at the bottom of the first. Red Sox then went cold in the next three innings.

Little Lion made it into the scoreboard at the top of the third inning, as catcher Cedric Ada singled and drove Justin Santos home.

Red Sox ended the deadlock with three earned runs and two on Little Lions' errors at the bottom of the fifth. Keene Guerrero finished the job at the top of the six inning, striking out Little Lions' first three batters.

Braves 10, Falcons 9

The Braves survived the Falcons' rally to eke out a 10-9 win.

The Braves improved to a 6-5 record, while the Falcons dropped to a 2-9 slate.

Three runs in the first and four more in the second put the Braves in control of the game early. But the Falcons remained in contention and were down by only four runs, going into the top of the last inning, 6-10.

The Falcons needed at least four runs to extend the game. After a bad start, which saw their leadoff batter beaten to first, the Falcons next two batters scored and they moved within one, 9-10, after fourth batter M.J. Aldan reached home plate on a Braves' miscue.

But that was the closest that the Falcons could get, as fifth batter A.J. Evangelista flied out to second and the sixth batter was beaten to first base on a 1-3 putout play.

Dragons 7, Survivors 4

The Dragons continued to keep pace with the Majors leaders after downing Survivors, 7-4.

The Dragons now have a 9-3 record, only a win behind the four leaders of the Major division. Survivors absorbed their sixth loss in 12 games.

A four-run bottom of the fifth did the trick for the Dragons, who trailed, 3-4, after four complete innings. The Dragons made two runs on Survivors' errors, while the other two were courtesy of a single and a double.

FIELDERS

From Page 28

quickly replaced by Chargualaf.

Fielders batters continued to have a good time against the lefty pitcher, as Chargualaf allowed six more hits and four more runs.

At the top of the fifth inning, Lion King used another pitcher, but after a hit by pitch and giving up a double, the team came out with its fifth pitcher for the game—Brandon Indalacio. Indalacio had a no-hitter and walked one, but two more runs were scored against him.

Fielders had lesser or no problems at all on the mound, as it had a luxury of using five different pitchers, who all did a great job shutting out Lion King.

Peter Tenorio pitched in the first inning, walking one and allowing one hit by pitch. Tom Agulto relieved him at the bottom of the second with the former striking out two batters and walking one.

Nathan Guerrero pitched in the third inning and Lion King was done after only three batters. Lion King made its lone hit in the game at the bottom of the fourth with Nokki Saralu at the mound, giving up a single on A.J. Hocog. But Saralu, who struck out the first two batters before Hocog's hit, tallied his third strikeout of the game, throwing out Taitano.

The Fielders recorded their sixth strikeout in the game at the bottom of the fifth with Juan Maratita striking out second batter Shirley Taitano. Jack Muna led off for Lion King at the bottom of the fifth and was beaten to first, and the Fielders sealed the championship after third batter Shota Castro was beaten to third base.

Peter Tenorio went 3-for-3 at bat for the Fielders, scoring two runs, one double, and one RBI. Maratita and Kevin Villagomez both hit 3-for-4 and the latter posted three RBIs. Eldred Sanchez, Agulto, and Maratita had one RBI apiece.

CENTURY

From Page 28

cap to top Team # 8 (2,845 and 3,218), again.

Team #8 foiled a Century Insurance sweep of the special awards in the team division after prevailing in the high game with handicap. Team # 8 nailed 1,205 pinfalls against Century's 1,188.

Zapanta went 4-for-6 in the individual awards, winning the high game scratch and high game with handicap and high series scratch and high series with handicap.

In the high game scratch, Zapanta registered 299 for a 20-pinfall win over Kitz Barja (279). Zapanta had a bigger winning margin (22 pinfalls) over Barja in the high game with handicap with the former nailing 319 against the latter's 297.

In the high series scratch, Zapanta defeated Simon Manacop by 51 pinfalls, 758-707. Zapanta also enjoyed a wide margin in the high series with handicap, tallying 818 pinfalls against Ronald Epan's 755.

In the women's division, Gloria Omechelang and Raphael's mother, Gigi, split the four awards. Omechelang took the high game scratch (258) and high game with handicap (291), while Gigi topped the high series scratch (584) and high series with handicap (704).

Manacop did not go home empty handed, as he was given the high average award after recording 207.49 in 18 weeks. The women's high average plum went to Yho Villavicencio (168.48). Manacop gained his second individual award after receiving the Most Improved Player trophy. Ron Cal took the women's MIP citation.

The 11 other teams that joined this season's Thursday Night League were Team # 8 (43-29), Fiesta Resort & Spa (42-30), CIC-AON (41-31), Toshiba (39-33), Philippine Consulate General (38-34), The Shark (36-36), Docomo Pacific (35-37), BOS-Marianas Pride (31-41), Natibu (30-42), Localz-I-Connect (30-42), and DFS (20-52).

The league concluded on April 23 and held its awards ceremony last week.

NEW

From Page 28

storage, and will be installed at the Ada Gym as soon as renovations to the gym floor are completed. The renovations, which will also include upgrading of the bathrooms and locker rooms, are currently being undertaken by the Department of Public Works, under the supervision of Joe Lizama, chief of the Division of Sports and Recreation, Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

The new shot clocks will replace existing units that are no longer functional.

Mondo, an Italian company, is a global partner of FIBA. The new equipment was secured by Steve Smith, secretary general of the FIBA Oceania Zone. This is the first time that Mondo and FIBA have ever made a donation of this size to any country or territory in the Oceania Zone. The estimated value of the equipment is $40,000. In addition, FIBA Oceania donated the cost of shipment of the backboards and shot clocks to Saipan.

Elias Rangamar, president of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and chairman of the Oceania Basketball Tournament Organizing Committee, welcomed the new arrivals.

"One of our objectives in holding the Oceania Tournament here on Saipan was to enable us to improve our facilities, so that they can be enjoyed by the people of the CNMI for many years to come. The new backboard units and shot clocks will be a part of the legacy that the tournament will leave for the future."

Rangamar added, "We are very grateful to Mondo, the FIBA Study Centre, and FIBA Oceania for donating this wonderful equipment at no cost to the CNMI. The new equipment will really help us run a great tournament."

The Oceania Tournament will be held on Saipan from June 20 to June 28, 2009. Australia and New Zealand, along with Pacific basketball powerhouses New Caledonia, Fiji, Tahiti, and Guam, and the CNMI's North Pacific neighbor Palau, will send national men's and women's teams to compete with the CNMI's best.

Gold sponsors for the tournament so far include Tan Holdings, the Joeten Charitable Foundation, and IT&E.

The organizing committee expects to close sponsorship arrangements with other companies within the next few days. Rangamar expressed his appreciation to all of the official sponsors and other contributors, especially the Marianas Visitors Authority and the Saipan Grand Hotel, and noted that additional sponsorships are still available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament. For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rangamar at 664-2502 or Mike White at 234-6547. ***(PR)***

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	21	12	.636	-
Boston	19	12	.613	1
Tampa Bay	15	17	.469	51/2
New York	14	16	.467	5 1/2
Baltimore	13	18	.419	7

Central Division

Kansas City	18	13	.581	-
Detroit	16	13	.552	1
Chicago	14	14	.500	2 1/2
Minnesota	15	16	.484	3
Cleveland	11	20	.355	7

West Division

Texas	16	14	.533	-
Los Angeles	15	14	.517	1/2
Seattle	14	16	.467	2
Oakland	11	17	.393	4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	16	13	.552	-
Florida	17	14	.548	-
Philadelphia	15	13	.536	1/2
Atlanta	14	16	.467	2 1/2
Washington	10	18	.357	5 1/2

Central Division

St. Louis	19	12	.613	-
Milwaukee	18	13	.581	1
Cincinnati	17	13	.567	1 1/2
Chicago	16	14	.533	2 1/2
Houston	13	17	.433	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	12	18	.400	6 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	22	10	.688	-
San Francisco	15	14	.517	5 1/2
San Diego	13	18	.419	8 1/2
Arizona	12	19	.387	9 1/2
Colorado	11	18	.379	9 1/2

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 10, Pittsburgh 1
Atlanta 6, Philadelphia 2
L.A. Dodgers 8, San Francisco 0
Houston 5, San Diego 4
Milwaukee 12, Chicago Cubs 6
Cincinnati 8, St. Louis 3
Florida 3, Colorado 1
Washington 2, Arizona 1

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP LEADERBOARD

THIRD ROUND

Alex Cejka	66	67	72	205
Tiger Woods	71	69	70	210
Retief Goosen	67	72	71	210
Jonathan Byrd	67	72	71	210
Ben Crane	65	73	72	210
Henrik Stenson	68	69	73	210
Ian Poulter	67	68	75	210
Brian Davis	71	69	71	211
John Mallinger	66	71	74	211
Kevin Na	71	66	74	211
Woody Austin	72	72	68	212
Kenny Perry	73	71	68	212
Ben Curtis	71	72	69	212
Daniel Chopra	75	65	72	212
Kevin Sutherland	73	67	72	212
Richard S. Johnson	66	72	74	212
Billy Mayfair	70	74	69	213
Martin Kaymer	71	73	69	213
Zach Johnson	72	71	70	213
Jim Furyk	68	74	71	213
Steve Stricker	71	71	71	213
Justin Rose	70	71	72	213
John Senden	72	69	72	213
Boo Weekley	73	67	73	213
Michael Letzig	71	68	74	213
Jeff Overton	71	67	75	213
Tim Petrovic	68	70	75	213
Tommy Armour III	74	70	70	214
John Rollins	68	76	70	214
Jeff Klauk	71	72	71	214
Johnson Wagner	69	73	72	214
Bubba Watson	67	75	72	214
Scott Verplank	67	74	73	214
Justin Leonard	70	69	75	214
Ryan Moore	71	68	75	214
Robert Allenby	73	66	75	214
Camilo Villegas	67	72	75	214
David Toms	67	70	77	214
Jason Dufner	67	70	77	214
Angel Cabrera	72	65	77	214
Luke Donald	74	70	71	215
Heath Slocum	75	69	71	215
Phil Mickelson	73	71	71	215
Fredrik Jacobson	70	73	72	215
Ernie Els	73	69	73	215
Geoff Ogilvy	70	72	73	215
Michael Allen	71	70	74	215
Tim Clark	72	69	74	215
Charley Hoffman	70	69	76	215
Paul Casey	70	69	76	215
John Merrick	70	72	74	216
Nick O'Hern	68	73	75	216
Stephen Ames	70	71	75	216
Mark Wilson	69	72	75	216
Sergio Garcia	71	73	73	217
Mike Weir	72	72	73	217
Matt Kuchar	72	72	73	217
Cameron Beckman	72	72	73	217
Jason Bohn	72	71	74	217
Vijay Singh	71	72	74	217
Brad Adamonis	67	76	74	217
Scott Piercy	71	72	74	217
Chez Reavie	70	72	75	217
Ryuji Imada	72	70	75	217
Steve Flesch	75	69	74	218
Rocco Mediate	73	71	74	218
Pat Perez	72	72	74	218
Padraig Harrington	72	72	74	218
Jeff Quinney	73	70	75	218
Jeev Milkha Singh	68	74	76	218
Aaron Baddeley	71	71	76	218
Robert Karlsson	74	70	75	219
Hunter Mahan	73	71	75	219
Martin Laird	71	72	76	219
Nathan Green	74	69	76	219
K.J. Choi	73	69	77	219
Stewart Cink	70	73	77	220
Bob Estes	75	68	77	220
Graeme McDowell	71	73	77	221
Fred Funk	73	71	78	222
Steve Marino	72	72	78	222
Dustin Johnson	72	72	78	222
Rod Pampling	70	73	79	222

By The Associated Press

The Week in Sports

Mix of good fate and tough luck

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Last week's tales had a mix of good fate and tough luck.

Good fortune fell on Saipan International School's boys varsity basketball team, Mt. Carmel School's cagebelles, Fielders, Lion King, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and doom for Jets and SIS cagebelles.

SIS' boys varsity team took the championship in the 2009 Coalition of Private Schools on Saipan Basketball League after stunning the favored GCA Eagles in the finals, 41-31.

The SIS Lady Geckos were not as lucky as their male counterparts after bowing to MCS Lady Knights in the title game, 32-36. Mt. Carmel's victory ended the Lady Geckos' three-year reign in the league.

The Jets were also looking to extend their supremacy in the Senior division of the Saipan Little League Baseball, but failed to advance to this season's finals on technicality.

The Jets lost their semis game via forfeiture against the Kagman Lion King, who protested the incomplete uniform of Jets pitcher Toby Fleming.

The sides of Fleming's pants lacked stripes, violating the league's ground rules on uniforms. The Jets appealed the protest and the forfeited game, but the SLLB board stood by its earlier decision, granting the Lion King the win.

The Jets were ahead, 11-0, in the third inning when Lion King protested the game and won. The Lion King moved into the finals against the Fielders with the latter cruising to an easy title win Saturday.

Kabiriel's victory in the 2009 Half Marathon Championship was uncontested, as he finished the 21-kilometer race around three minutes ahead of his closest pursuer.

The 34-year-old mainstay of the Commonwealth's national athletics team timed in at one hour, 31 minutes, and 42 seconds, to beat 17 other participants.

Korean veteran runner Bae Ji Keum (1:34:26) finished second, while Coco Restaurant's Ronald Villafria (1:37:16) checked in third. Other finishers in the rain-soaked 13.1-mile race were Quincy Johnson (1:45:45), Chang Whan Jang (1:48:58), Fred Camacho (1:52:27), Tamio Nishikido (1:52:28), John Douglas (1:56:42), Keone Chariton (2:09:23), Joshua Berger (2:10:52), Manny Sitchon (2:11:52), Yosh Gabaldon (2:14:57), Brad Ruszala (2:29:59), John Jenkins (2:42:50), and Bernard Samson (2:44:17).

After the half marathon, Northern Marianas Athletics also held the 2009 CNMI National Track and Field Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex with the annual meet drawing around 200 participants.

In other good news, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands was able to secure support for the hosting of the 2009 FIBA Oceania Basketball Tournament next month from three companies.

Lending a helping hand to BANMI were McDonald's, IT&E, and Joeten Enterprises.

FIBA Oceania Steve Smith was on Saipan last week when BANMI managed to gain assistance from three companies. But Smith said that BANMI and CNMI's responsibilities as host of the Oceania caging does not end in having private companies' support, as local organizers through the government's help also need to focus on the renovation of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Ada Gym is one of the two venues for the Oceania tournament and must undergo a major facelift to meet FIBA standard.

MARK RABAGO
Half Marathon Championship winner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel is flanked by runner-up Bae Ji Keum, left, and Ronald Villafria after the three completed the 21-kilometer race that started and ended at the Oleai track and field facility.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Jets' Toby Fleming pitches during the first inning of their semis game over Kagman Lion King at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Left, Saipan International School's Lucas Knecht protects the ball from Grace Christian Academy's Dae Min Jeon (4) during their title game in the private school caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Above, MCS' Nicole Lebria, left, and Maya Oestreich of SIS battle for the ball during their title game in the girls high school division of the private school caging last week at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

MARK RABAGO
FIBA Oceania secretary general Steven Smith is joined by Michael White, his counterpart from the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, and Gabriel White in receiving gold sponsorship checks from Joeten Enterprises

MARK RABAGO
FIBA Oceania secretary general Steven Smith is joined by Michael White, his counterpart from the Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands, and Gabriel White in receiving gold sponsorship checks from IT&E.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A student-athlete competes in the high jump event in the 2009 CNMI National Championships at the Oleai Sports Complex.

Mix of good fate and tough luck

Good fortune fell on Saipan International School's boys varsity basketball team, Mt. Carmel School's cagebelles, Fielders, Lion King, and Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel and doom for Jets and SIS cagebelles. 27

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Hall of Fame coach Chuck Daly dies

he Detroit Pistons made plenty of enemies while winning titles and throwing blows two decades ago. Chuck Daly, though, was universally admired for his class and coaching acumen. 24

Fielders top Senior League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Fielders were in complete uniform and armed with better hitters and pitchers in their lopsided 10-0 win over Kagman Lion King in the title game in the Senior division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Playing in their white and green uniform, the Fielders had an easy ride to the championship, going 15-for-29 at the plate for a batting average of .517, as Lion King could not find the right man or even the woman at the mound.

Lion King, who won in the semis via forfeiture over pennant champion Jets on a controversial uniform rules violation, had Dominic Chargualaf as a starter.

Chargualaf allowed four hits, gave up three runs, and walked three in 2.3 inning pitch before Rita Taitano relieved him midway at the top of the third inning. After giving up a double on Fielders' Tom Agulto, Taitano was

See FIELDERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Tan Holdings-backed Fielders pose for a group photo after shutting out Kagman Lion King in the finals of the Senior division of the 2009 Saipan Little League Baseball last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Limes lifts Tan Holdings to U13 win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Alex Limes toyed with Matansa's defense, or the lack of it, to lead Tan Holdings to a 3-2 victory in the boys U13 division of the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League.

Limes drilled his first goal at the 4:25 mark and scored his second one at 4:35. Tony Bai gave Tan Holdings its third goal in the game at the 4:37 mark.

In the U6 division, Tan Holdings also won, downing Paire FC, 4-1. Tan Holdings FC fired three early goals in the first half before slowing down in the second, making only one. Paire FC nailed its lone goal in the match in the first half.

Three games were scheduled for the co-ed U8 division with MP United posting two wins and Paire FC tallying one.

MPU-1 defeated Paire FC-1, 2-0, on Clayton Izuka's twin goals. Izuka drilled his first goal in the seventh minute and canned his second one in the 11th minute.

MPU-3 gave the club its second victory in the co-ed U8 after thumping IFC, 1-0.

Paire FC-2 had one goal apiece in the first and second half to beat Tan Holdings, 2-0, in the other boys U8 game.

In the U10 division, Paire FC-2 clobbered Matansa G-1, 5-0, while Matansa 2 redeemed the club with a 3-1 triumph over Tan Holdings. Matansa 2 tallied two goals in the first half and added one more in the second. Tan Holdings made it into the scoreboard in the second half.

The league is on its final three weeks and is scheduled to cap the season with a youth football festival on May 30 at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Around 500 kids are playing in the youth league, which holds a co-ed competition in the U4, U6, U8, and U10 divisions. U13 and U18 categories have separate contests for girls and boys.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Two Matansa FC strikers hit the ball during their U10 game against Tan Holdings FC in the 2009 NMIFA Spring Youth Football League at the San Antonio Elementary School Field on May 2.

Century, Raphael rule Thursday Night League

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Century Insurance and youth bowler Raphael Zapanta walked away with the most team and individual awards in the 26th PBA-CBC Thursday Night League.

Century Insurance ruled the 12-team league after posting a 47-25 record this season. It totaled 53,306 pinfalls in 18 weeks for an average of 914 pinfalls per week. The eventual champion had a 65.3 winning percentage.

Besides the championship trophy, Century Insurance also pocketed three special awards—high game scratch, high series scratch, and high series with handicap. Century tallied 1, 109 in the high game scratch category, beating Team #8 (1,075). Century recorded 3,161 in high series scratch and 3,398 in high series with handi-

See CENTURY on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Members of Century Insurance pose with their championship trophy during the awards ceremony for the 26th PBA-CBC Thursday Night League last week at the Capital Bowling Center.

New backboards and shot clocks arrive for Ada Gym

Thanks to the generosity of Mondo, FIBA (the International Basketball Federation), and the FIBA Oceania Zone, the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium has received brand-new portable basketball backboards, backboard supports, and shot clocks. These will see use at the upcoming Oceania Basketball Tournament, which will be held here on Saipan from June 20 to 29, 2009.

The new units consist of a support arm, two uprights, a base, and a backboard and rim. The new units were necessary because the existing backboards at the Ada Gym no longer complied with FIBA regulations. The new units are portable, which means that they can be folded up and rolled out of the way when the Gym is needed for purposes other than basketball. The units look very similar to ones which are used in NBA arenas.

The backboard units are currently in

See NEW on Page 26